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INVINCIBLE



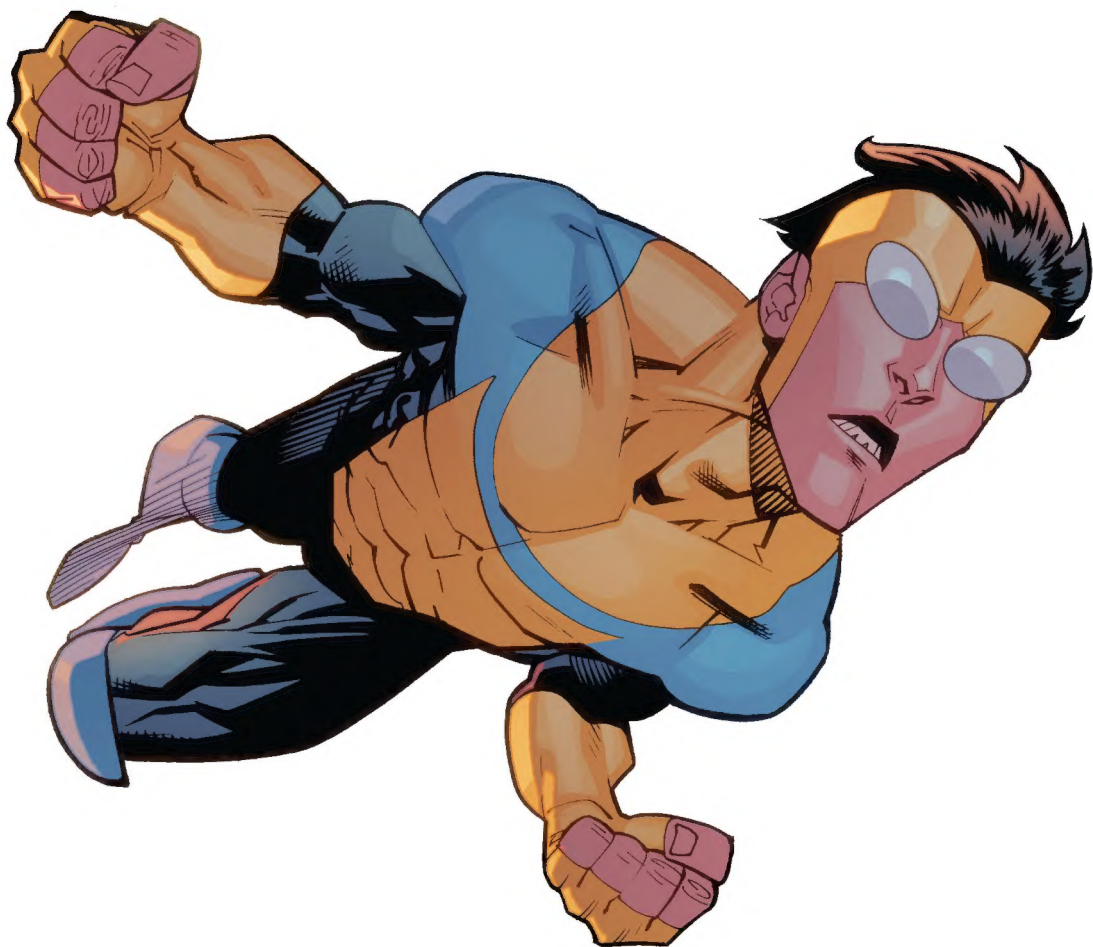
VOLUME FIFTEEN
GET SMART



image COMICS PRESENTS

INVINCIBLE™

GET SMART



CREATED BY
**ROBERT KIRKMAN
& CORY WALKER**

image®



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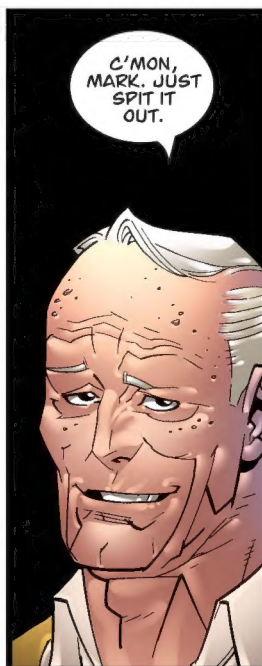
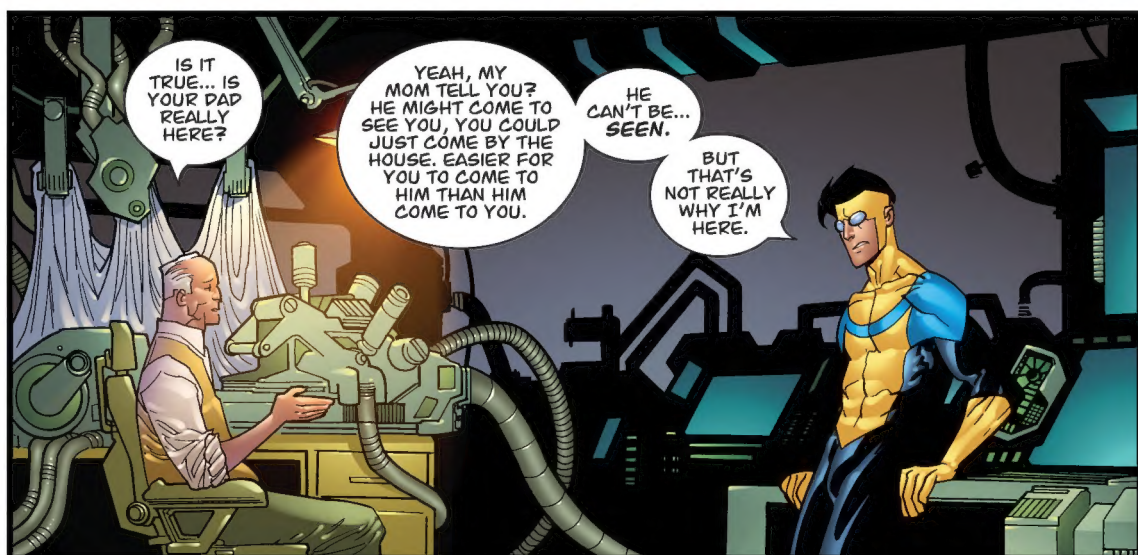
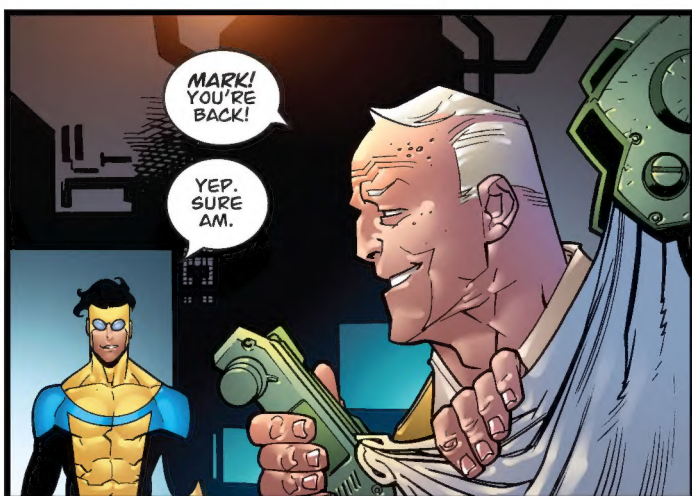
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CHAPTER ONE







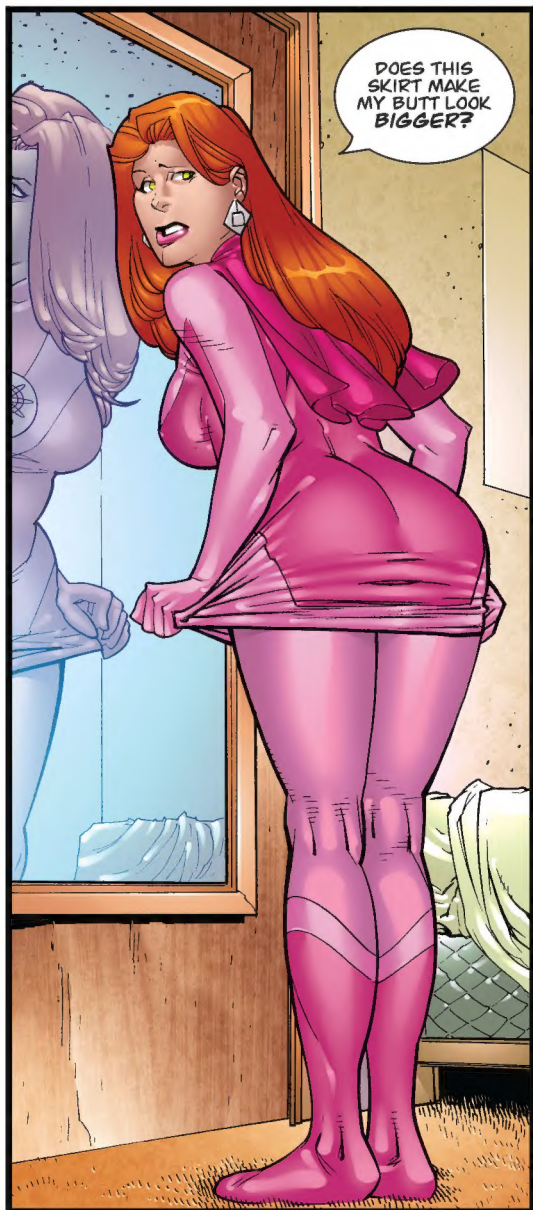
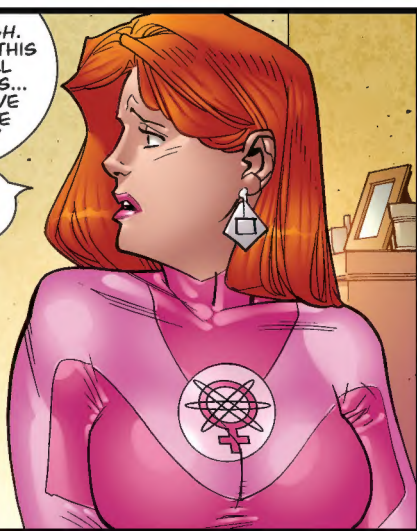


WHOA! ARE YOU GOING OUT? SOMETHING GOING ON?



NO, I WAS--UGH. JUST SEEING IF THIS COSTUME STILL WORKED... I WAS... WHY'D YOU HAVE TO COME HOME RIGHT NOW?

JUST...



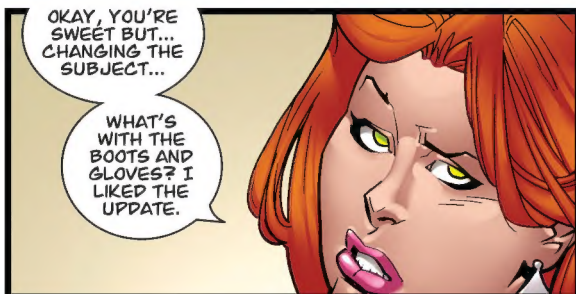
DOES THIS SKIRT MAKE MY BUTT LOOK BIGGER?



IT JUST MAKES IT LOOK... AMAZING.

SERIOUSLY, I KNOW YOU'RE UNCOMFORTABLE, EVE... BUT IF I'M HONEST, I'M IN NO HURRY FOR YOU TO LOSE THIS WEIGHT.

I LIKE IT.



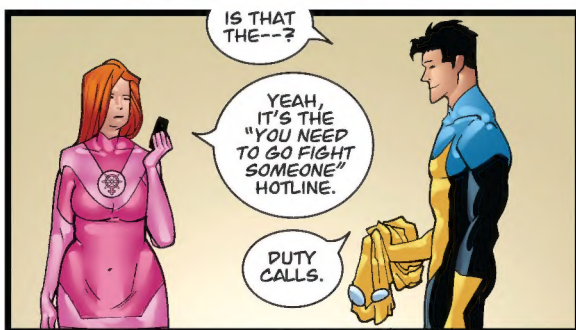
OKAY, YOU'RE SWEET BUT... CHANGING THE SUBJECT...

WHAT'S WITH THE BOOTS AND GLOVES? I LIKED THE UPDATE.



I DIDN'T. I THOUGHT IT LOOKED... LESS UNIQUE. I MEAN, I LIKED IT AT FIRST, BUT IT JUST DIDN'T FEEL--

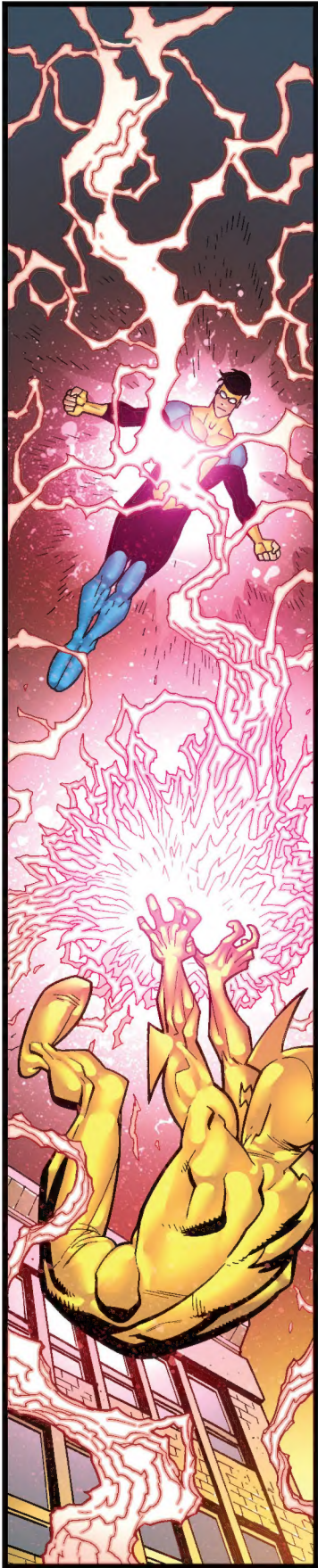
BREET!
BREET!

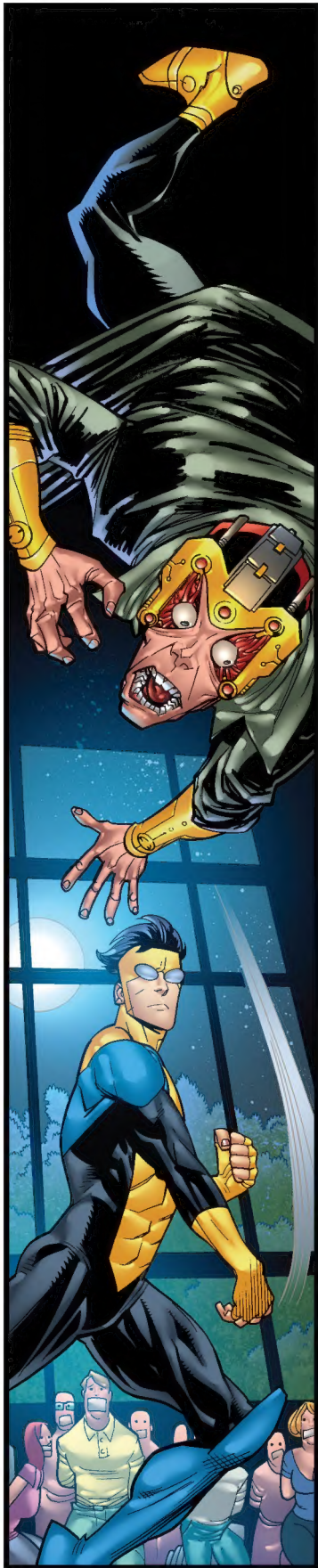


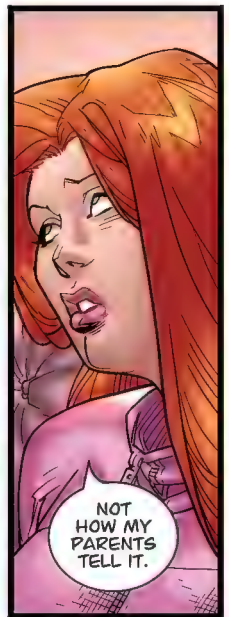
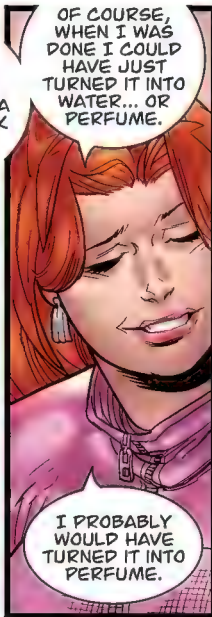
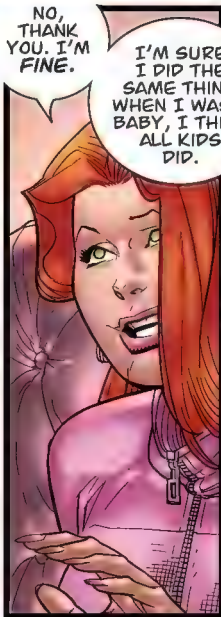
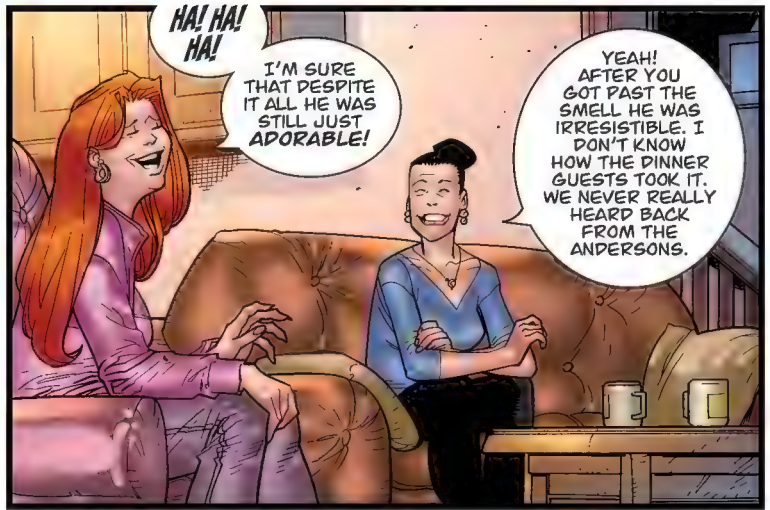
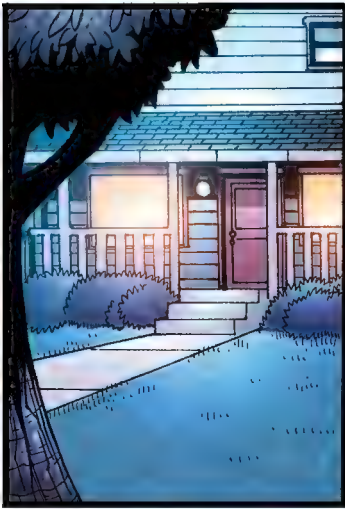
IS THAT THE--?

YEAH, IT'S THE "YOU NEED TO GO FIGHT SOMEONE" HOTLINE.

DUTY CALLS.



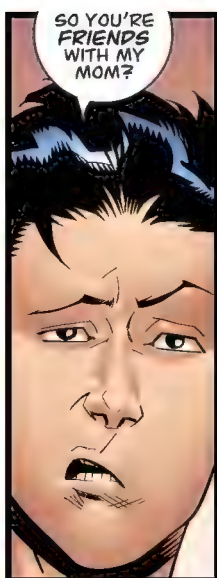




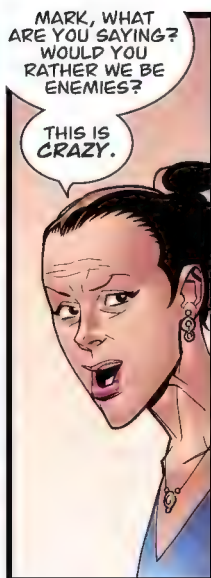


I KNEW YOU WERE TAKING CARE OF THAT BANK THING TONIGHT AND I DIDN'T HAVE ANY PLANS SO I POPPED OVER TO SEE YOUR MOM.

ARE YOU SERIOUS?

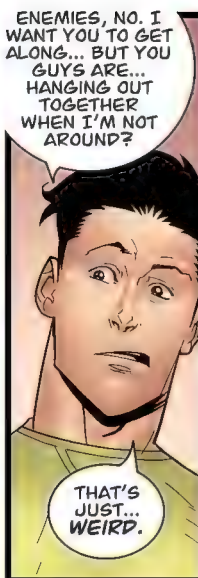


SO YOU'RE FRIENDS WITH MY MOM?



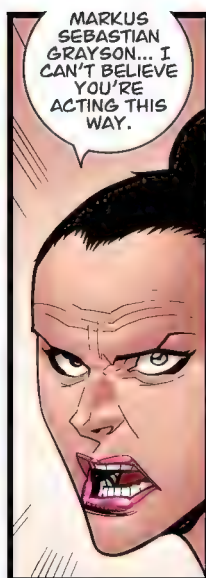
MARK, WHAT ARE YOU SAYING? WOULD YOU RATHER WE BE ENEMIES?

THIS IS CRAZY.



ENEMIES, NO. I WANT YOU TO GET ALONG... BUT YOU GUYS ARE... HANGING OUT TOGETHER WHEN I'M NOT AROUND?

THAT'S JUST... WEIRD.



MARKUS SEBASTIAN GRAYSON... I CAN'T BELIEVE YOU'RE ACTING THIS WAY.



WE... SPENT A LOT OF TIME TOGETHER, BONDED, WHEN YOU WERE GONE.



I REALLY DON'T SEE HOW THIS IS A BIG DEAL. I'M FRIENDS WITH YOUR GIRLFRIEND.

YOU KNOW, THE TWO OF US DON'T HAVE A LOT OF OTHER FRIENDS... WE'VE REALLY GROWN QUITE CLOSE.



YOU'RE MAKING IT WORSE.



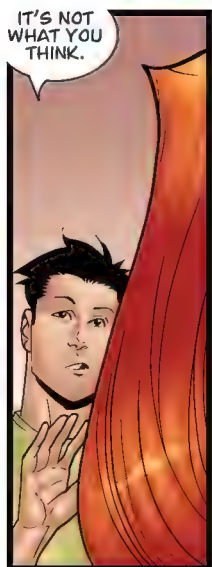
REALLY, MARK. YOU'RE BOTH ADULTS NOW. YOU TURNED TWENTY WHILE YOU WERE AWAY.

YOU REALLY WANT ME SCOLDING YOU WHEN I SEE HER FACE IN YOUR LAP WHEN YOU'RE FORTY?



UH...

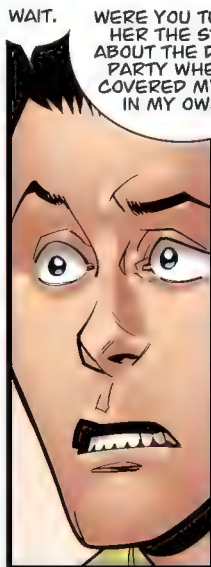
WHEN WAS MY FACE IN HIS LAP?



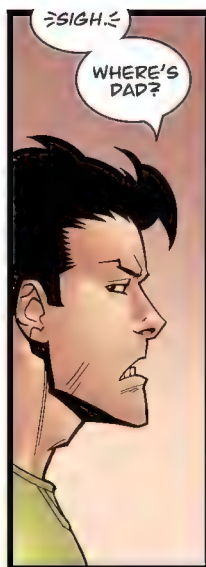
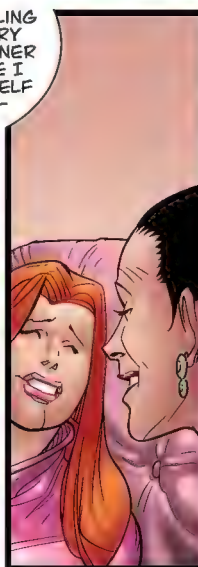
IT'S NOT WHAT YOU THINK.



NOW YOU'RE MAKING ME UNCOMFORTABLE.

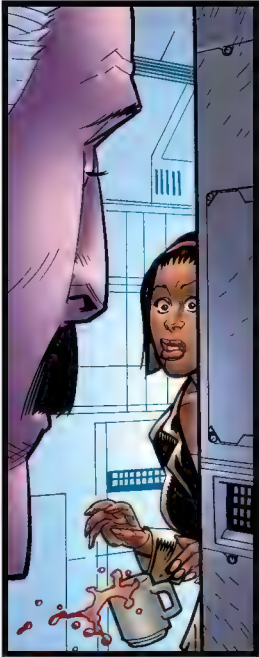
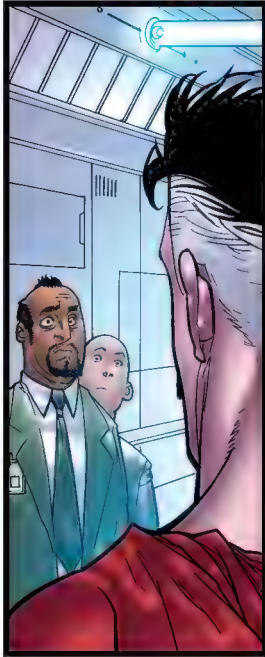
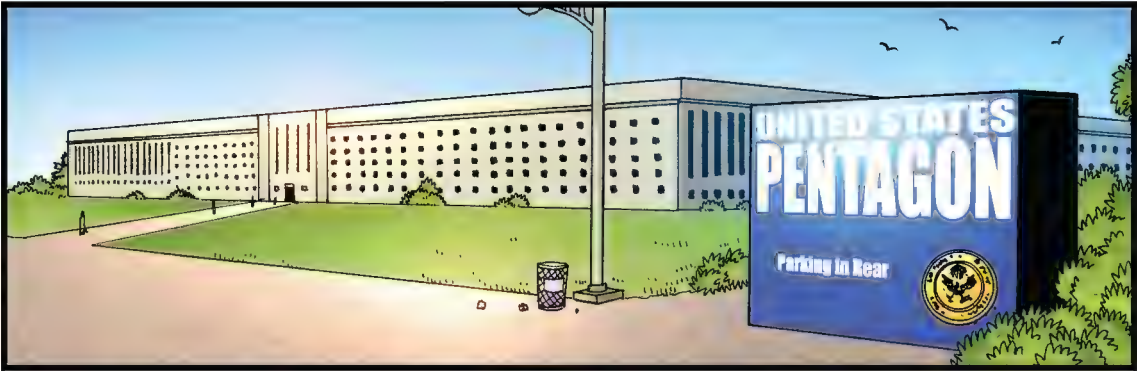


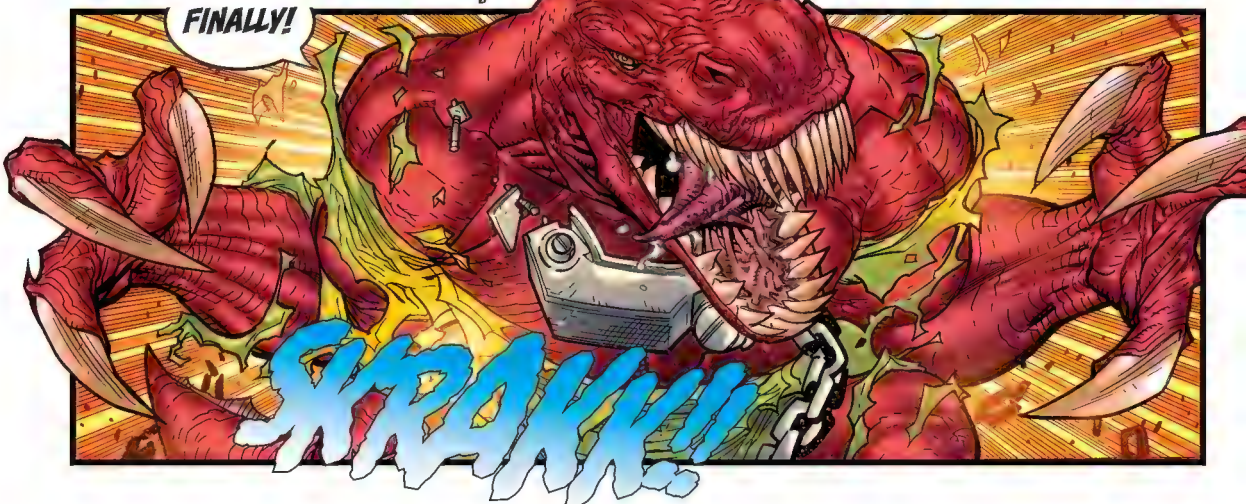
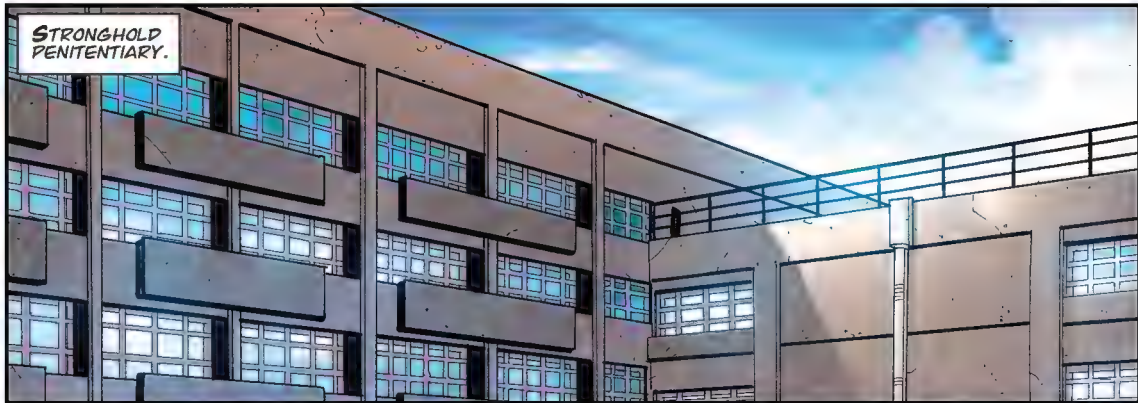
WAIT. WERE YOU TELLING HER THE STORY ABOUT THE DINNER PARTY WHERE I COVERED MYSELF IN MY OWN--

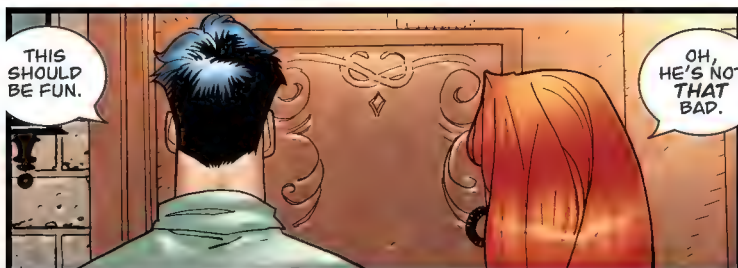
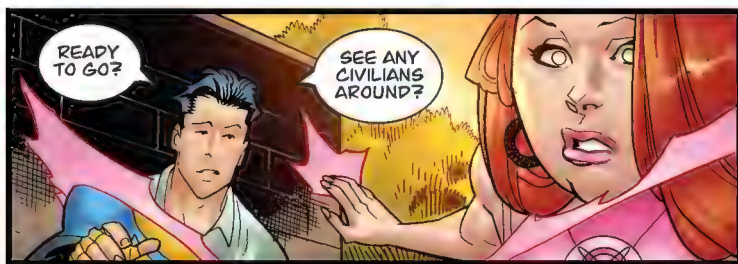


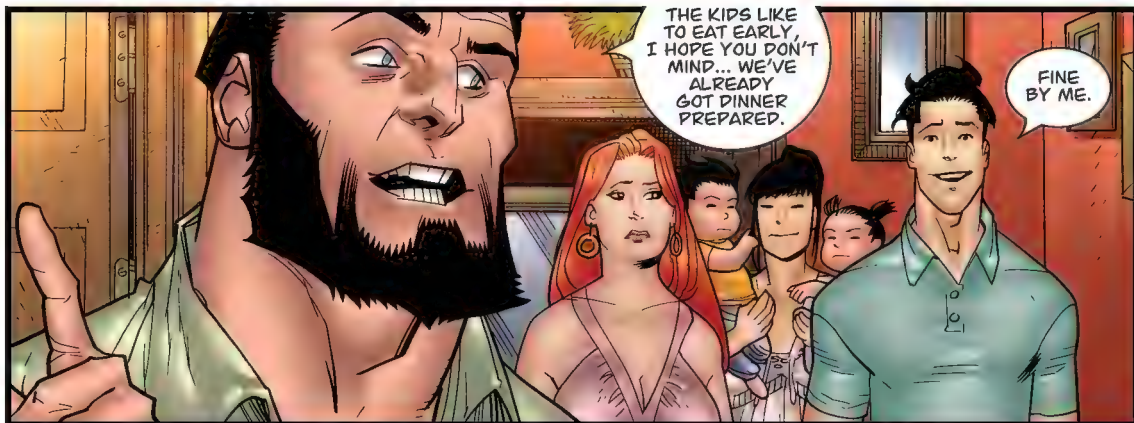
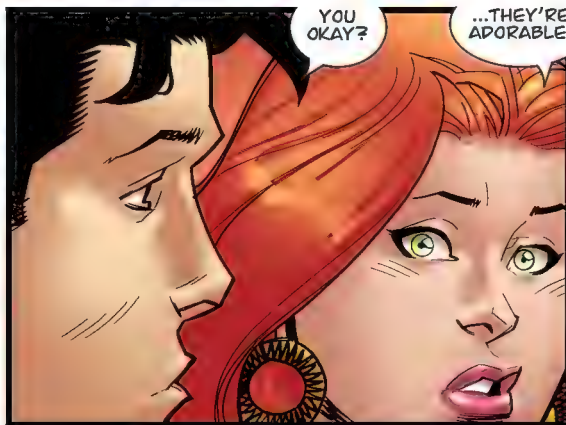
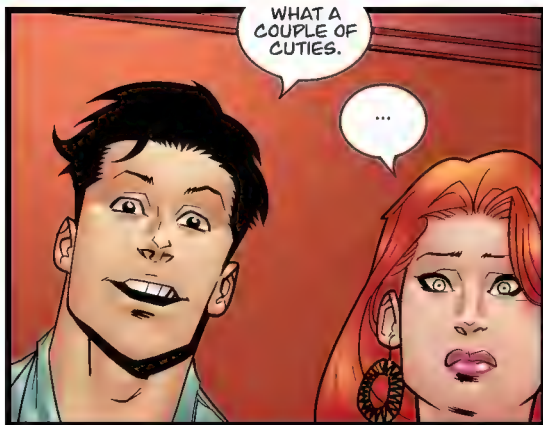
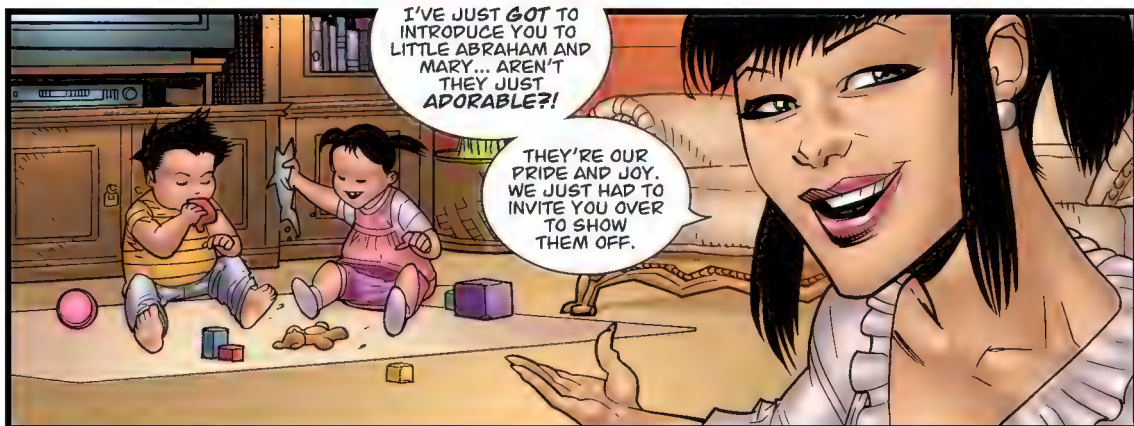
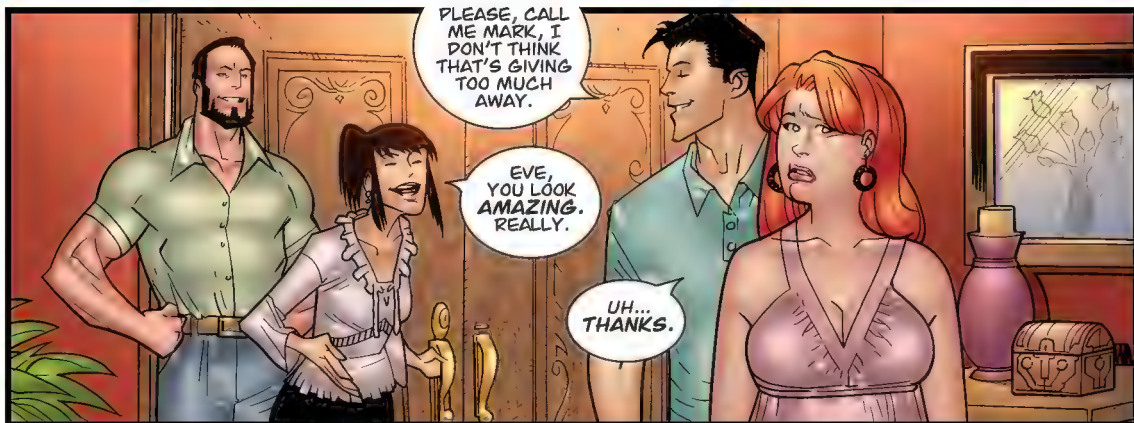
==SIGH==

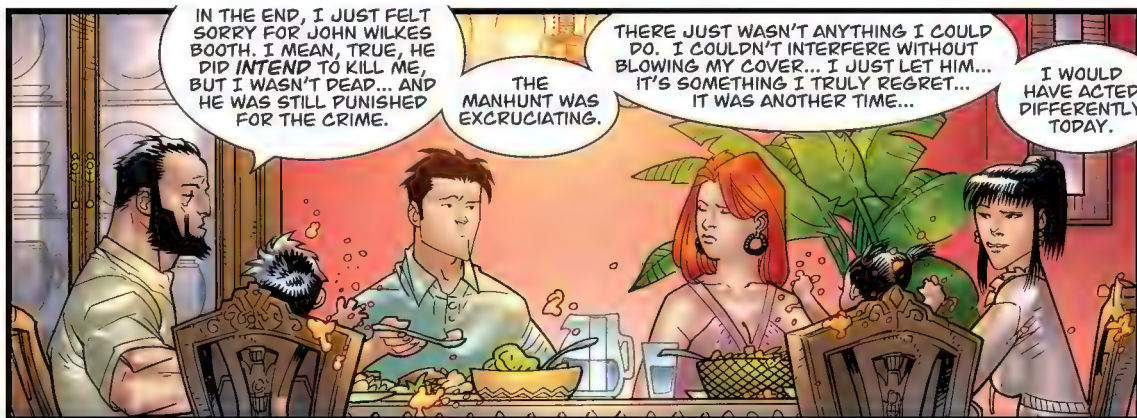
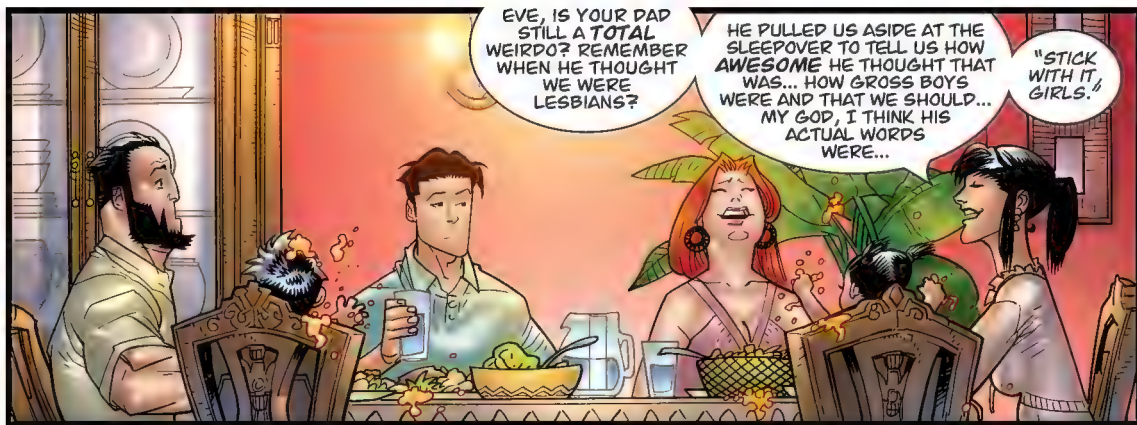
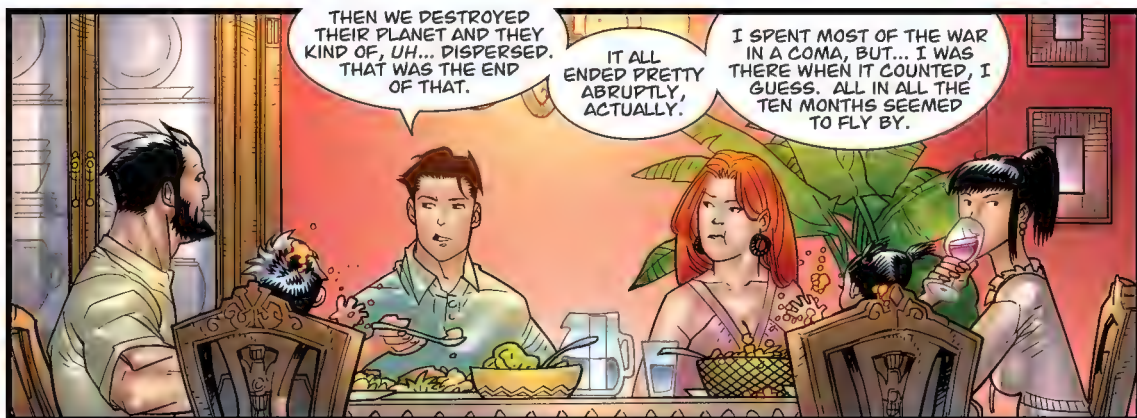
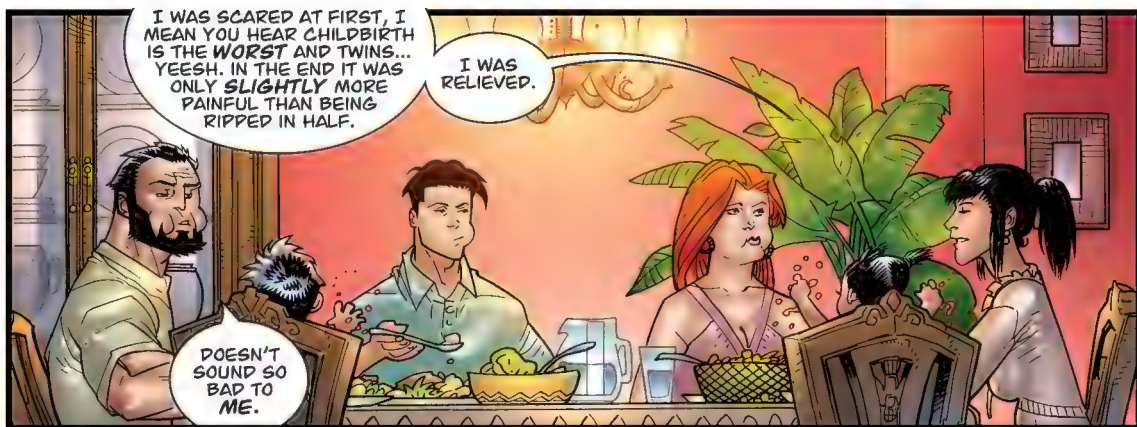
WHERE'S DAD?

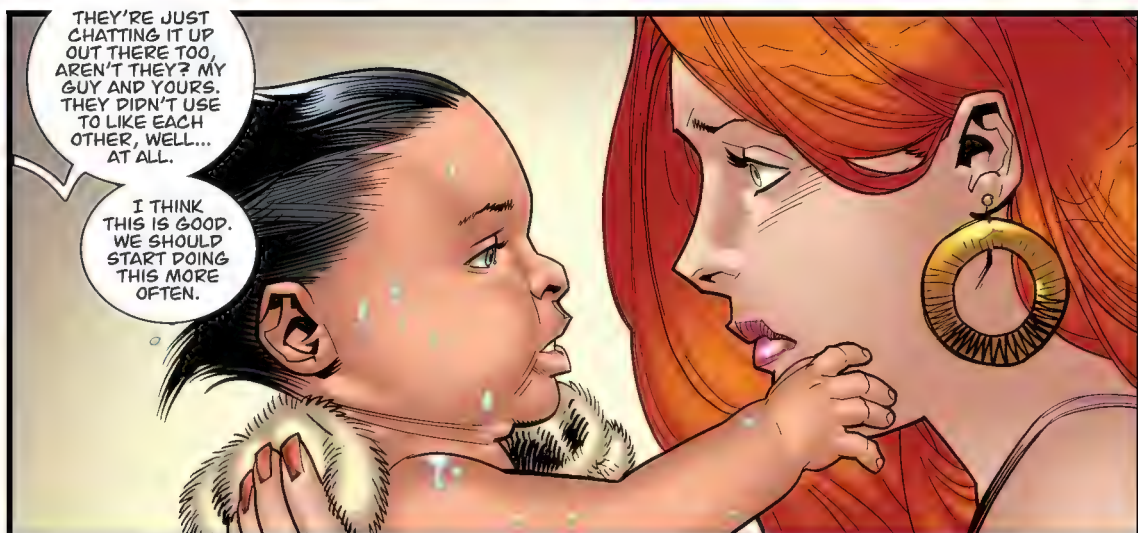
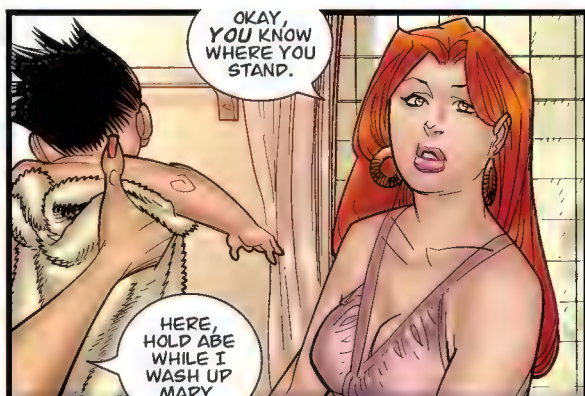
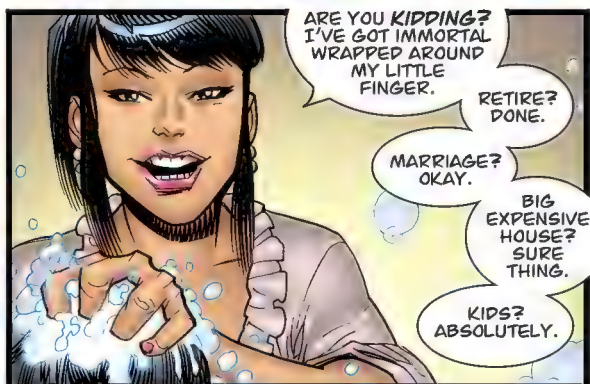
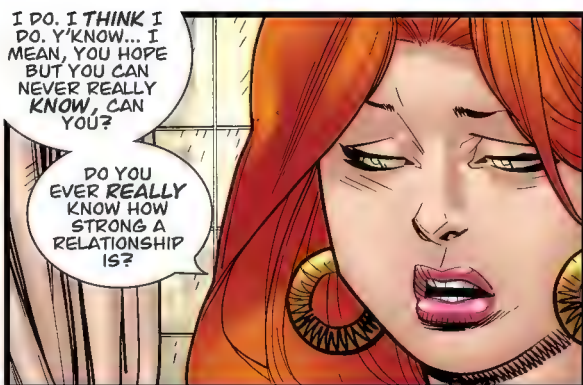




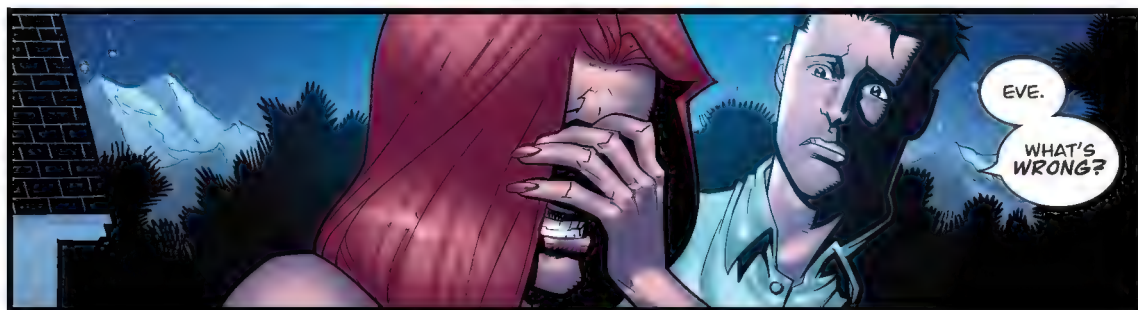
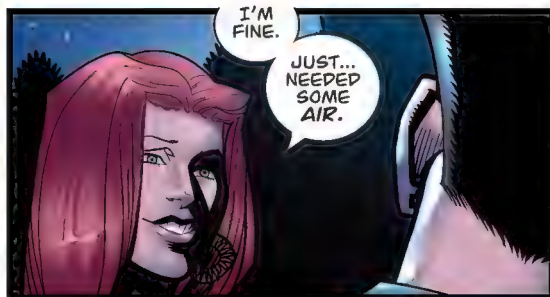
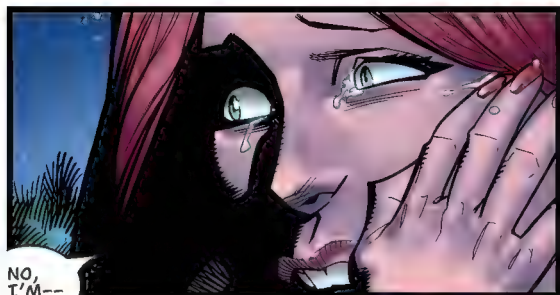
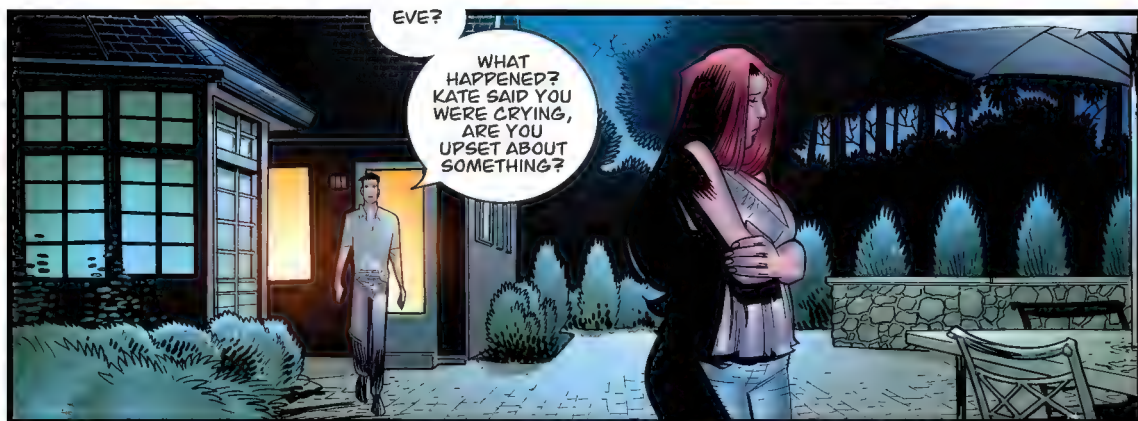


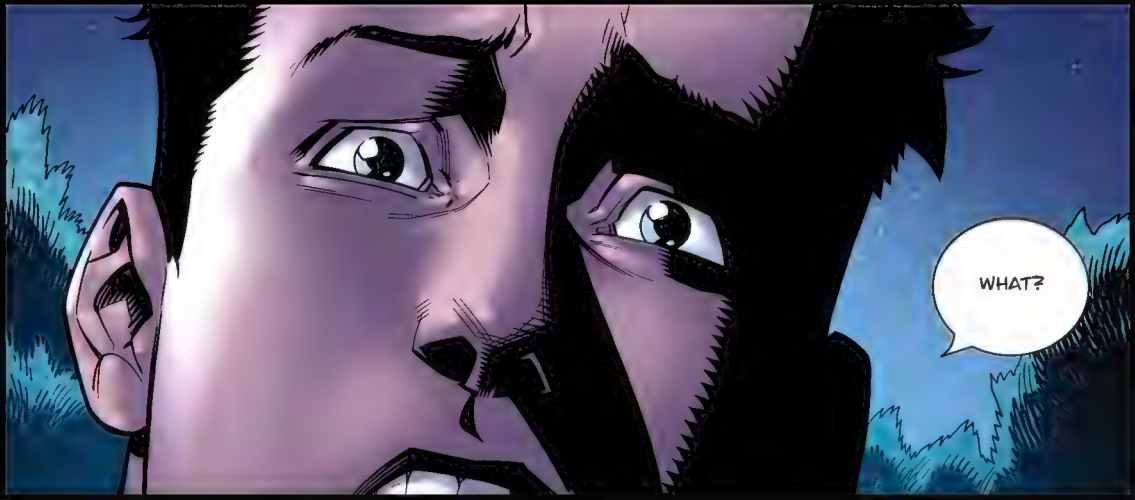
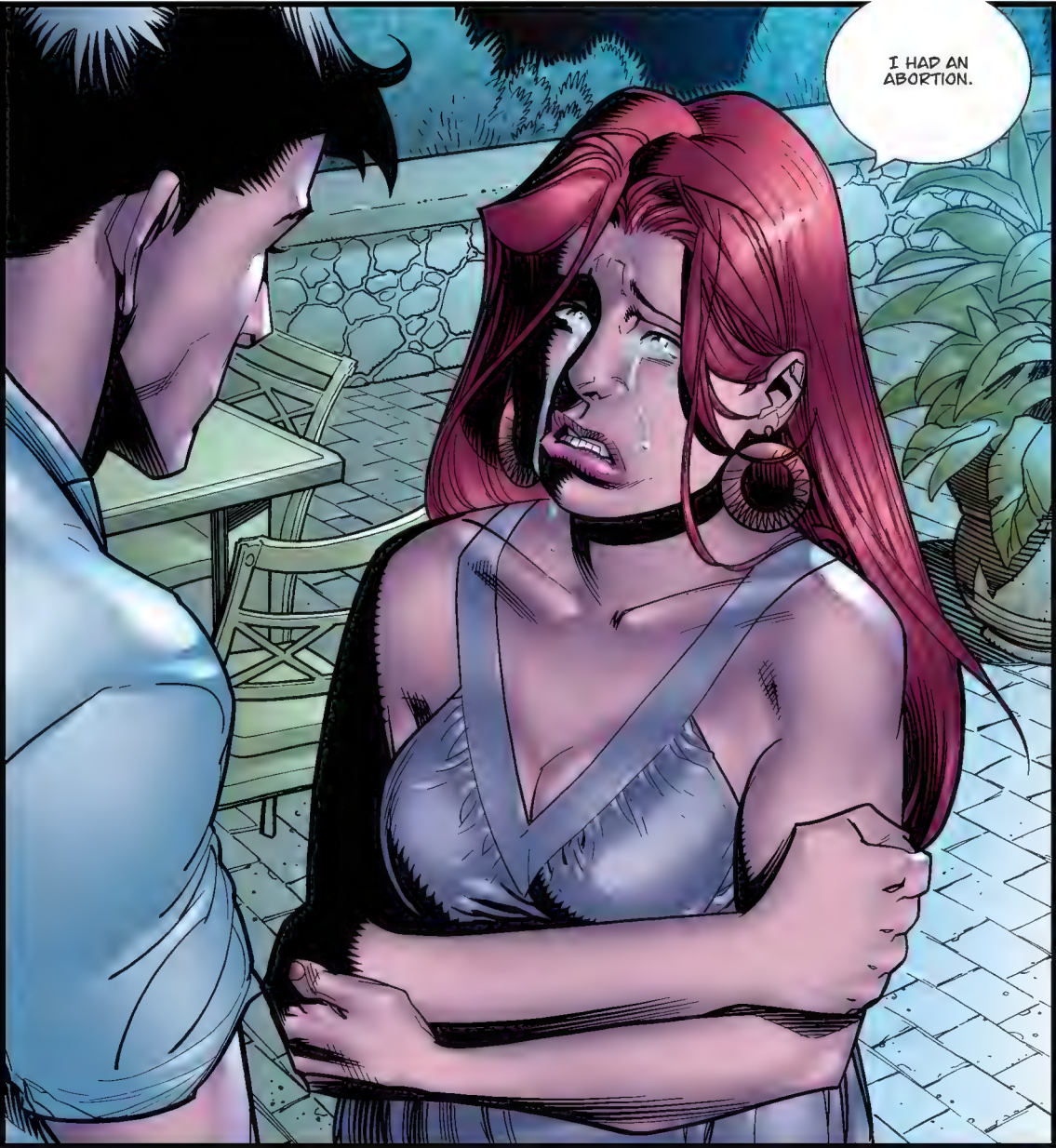


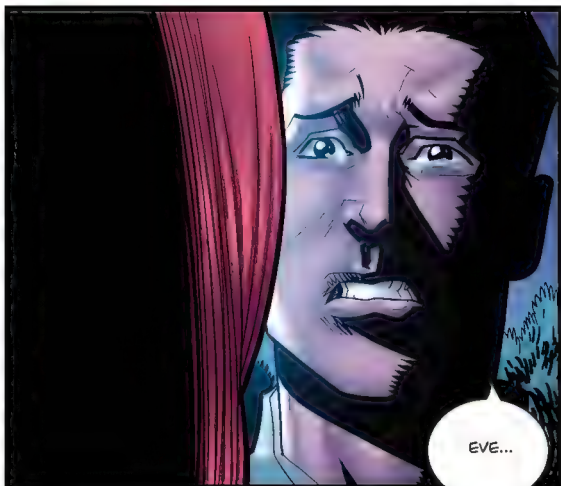
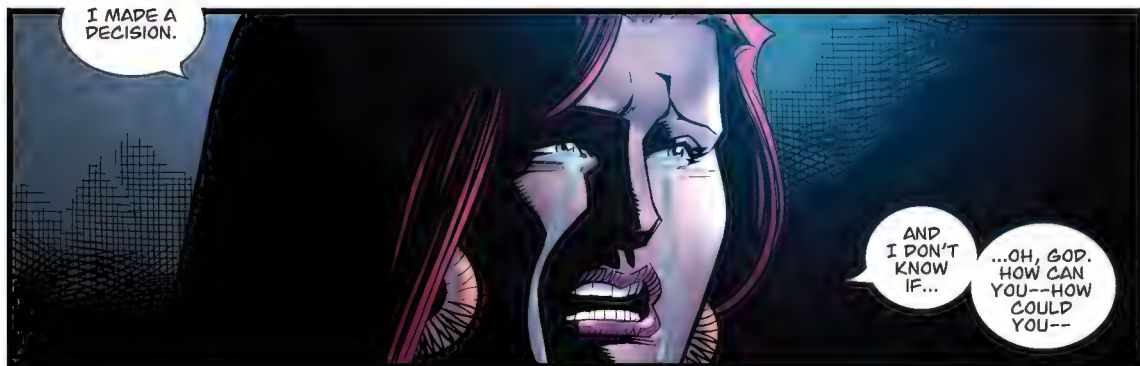






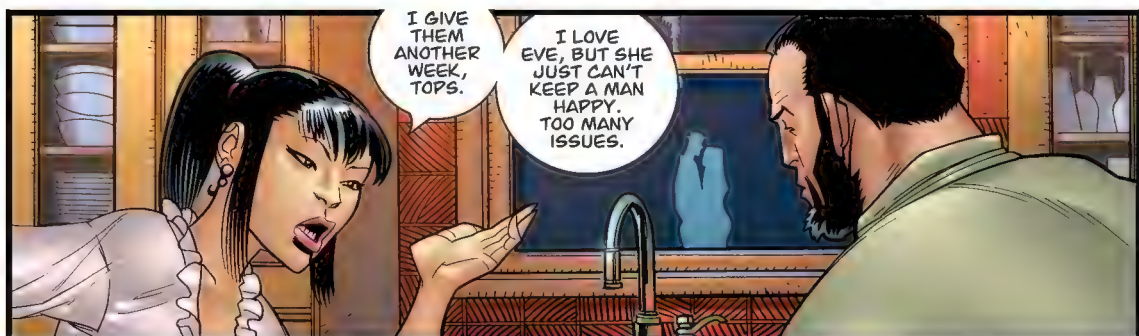
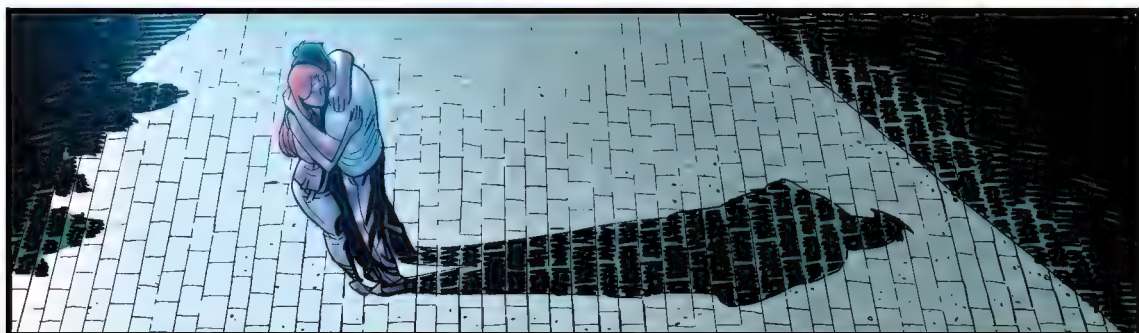
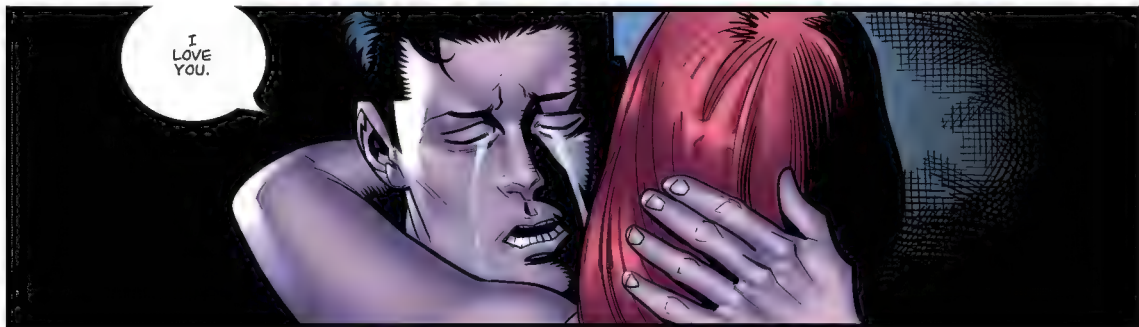






I'M
SORRY
I DID THIS
TO YOU.



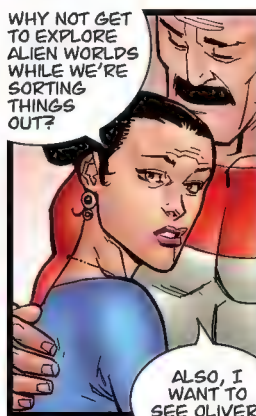
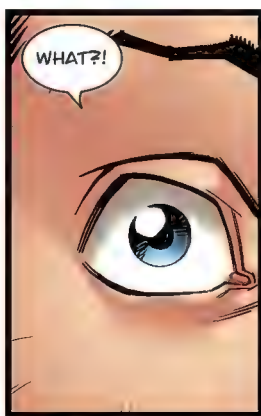
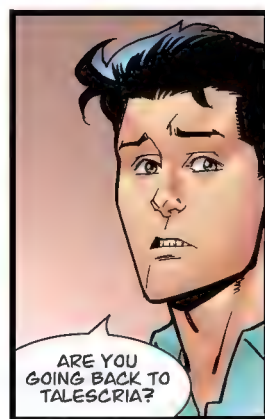
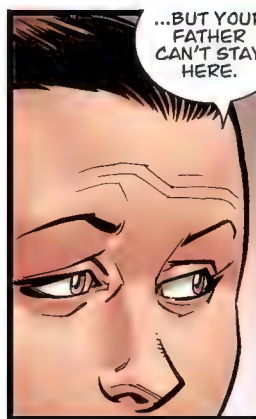
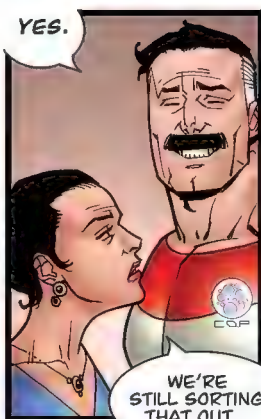
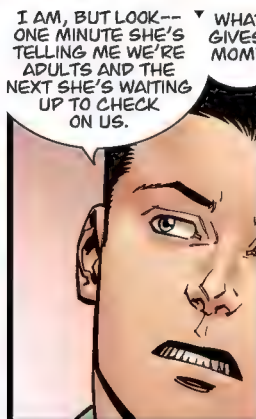


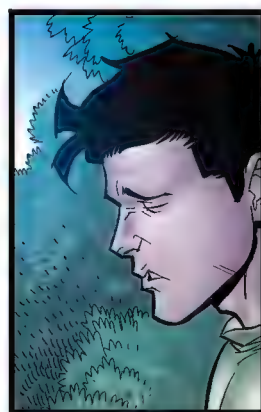
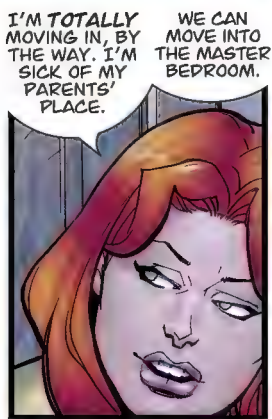
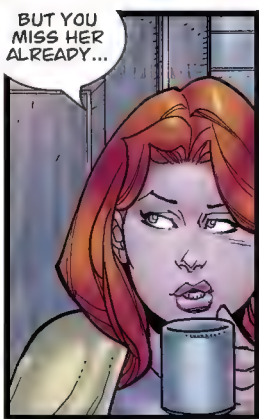
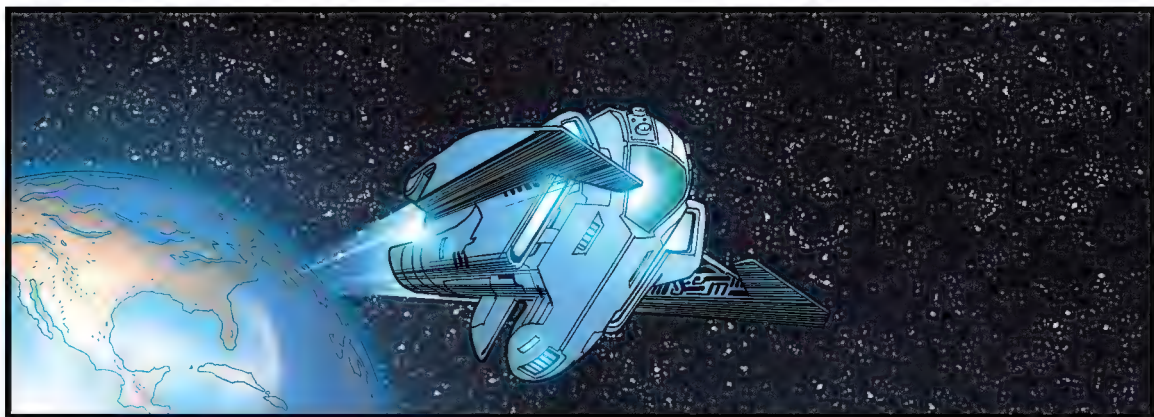


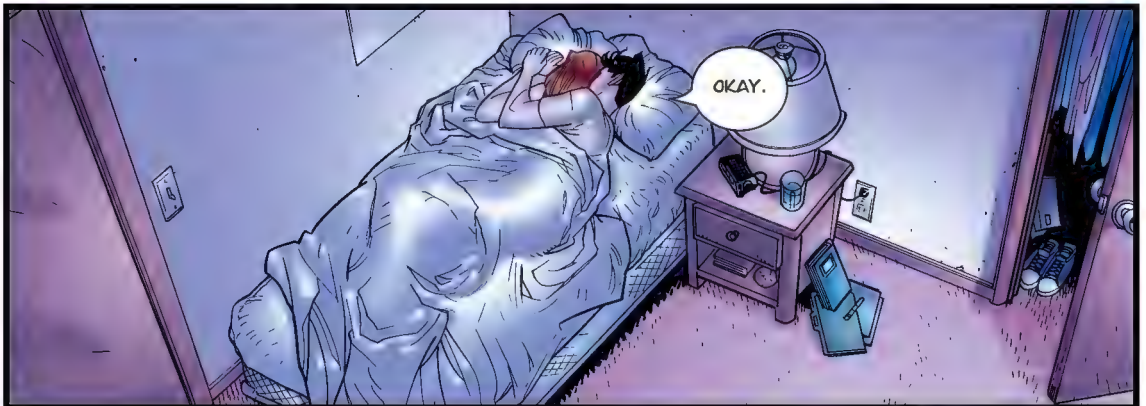
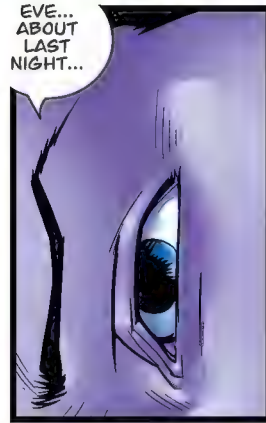
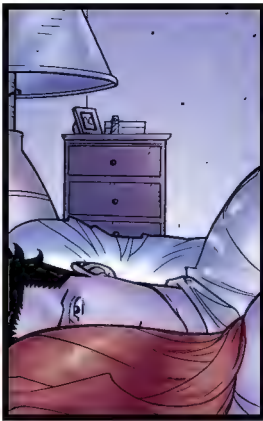
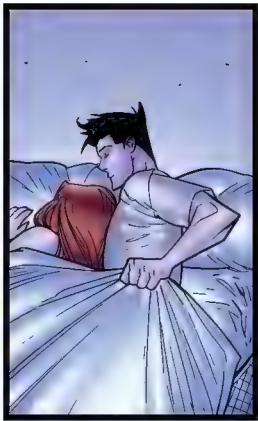
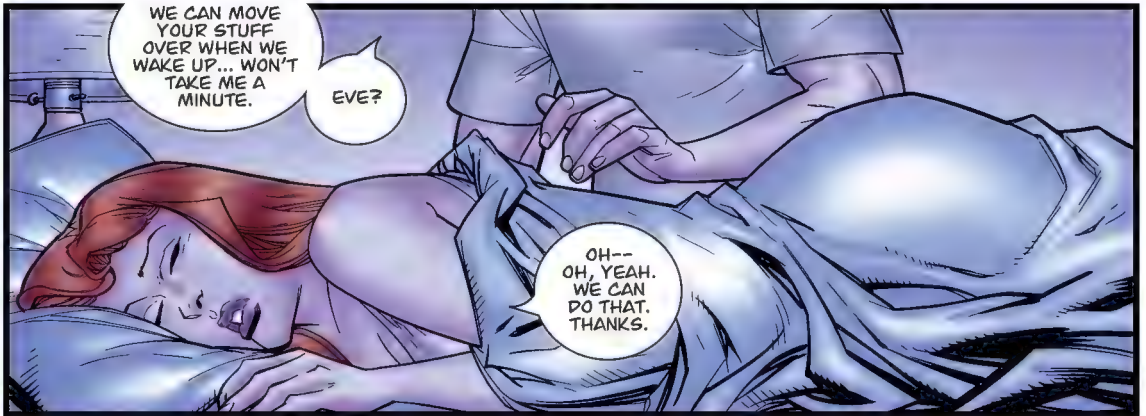
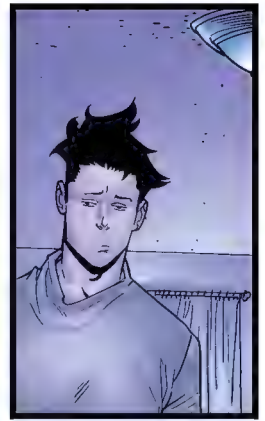
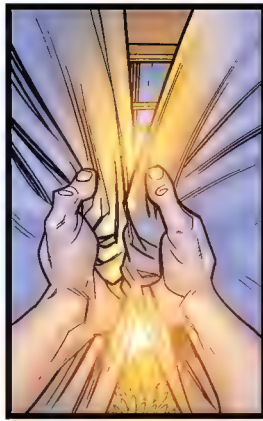


CHAPTER TWO









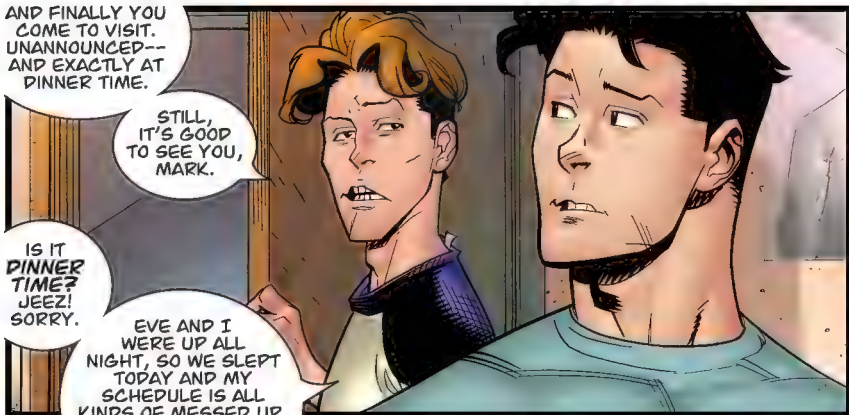


AND FINALLY YOU
COME TO VISIT.
UNANNOUNCED--
AND EXACTLY AT
DINNER TIME.

STILL,
IT'S GOOD
TO SEE YOU,
MARK.

IS IT
DINNER
TIME?
JEEZ!
SORRY.

EVE AND I
WERE UP ALL
NIGHT, SO WE SLEPT
TODAY AND MY
SCHEDULE IS ALL
KINDS OF MESSED UP.



UP ALL
NIGHT,
HUH?

I GUESS
YOU TWO
ARE GETTING
REACQUAINTED,
THEN.

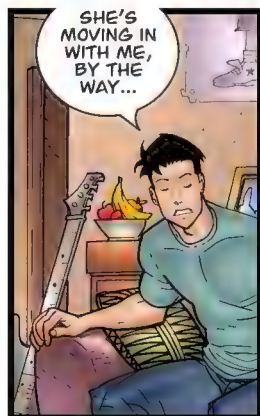


OH, HOW
I'VE MISSED
OUR LITTLE
TALKS,
WILLIAM.

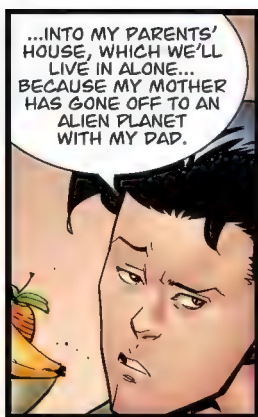


YEAH,
SORRY...
I COULDN'T
RESIST.

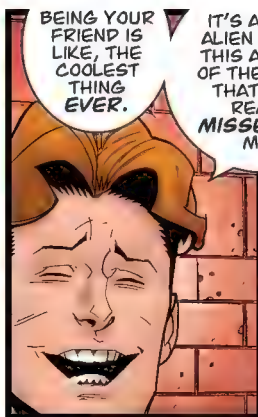
WHAT
BRINGS
YOU
HERE?



SHE'S
MOVING IN
WITH ME,
BY THE
WAY...



...INTO MY PARENTS'
HOUSE, WHICH WE'LL
LIVE IN ALONE...
BECAUSE MY MOTHER
HAS GONE OFF TO AN
ALIEN PLANET
WITH MY DAD.



BEING YOUR
FRIEND IS
LIKE, THE
COOLEST
THING
EVER.

IT'S ALWAYS
ALIEN PLANET
THIS AND END
OF THE WORLD
THAT. I'VE
REALLY
MISSED YOU,
MAN.

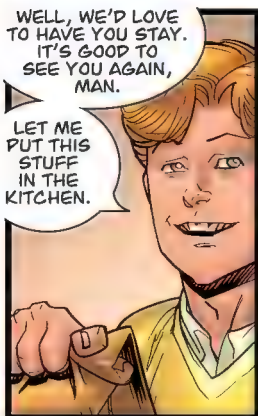


DINNER
IS SER--

OH,
WILLIAM--
I DIDN'T
KNOW WE WERE
HAVING
COMPANY.

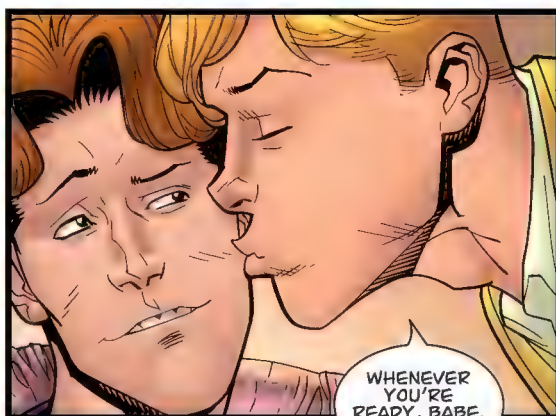


SORRY, RICK.
I JUST POPPED
IN FOR A MINUTE.
I CAN'T STAY
FOR DINNER
ANYWAY.



WELL, WE'D LOVE
TO HAVE YOU STAY.
IT'S GOOD TO
SEE YOU AGAIN,
MAN.

LET ME
PUT THIS
STUFF
IN THE
KITCHEN.



WHENEVER
YOU'RE
READY, BABE.



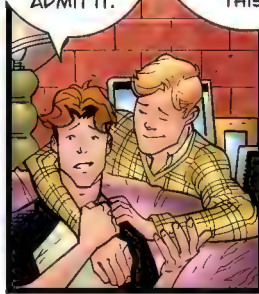
UH...
WHAT?



YOU'RE
GAY?

WHOA.

YEAH, I'VE
BEEN KIND OF
FIGHTING IT
ALL MY LIFE...
NOT WILLING
TO LET
MYSELF
ADMIT IT.



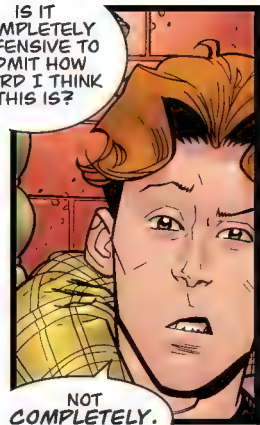
I NEVER
REALLY KNEW
HOW TO TELL
YOU. EVE KNOWS.
SORRY TO
SPRING IT
ON YOU LIKE
THIS.

IT'S OKAY...
REALLY.
NO BIG
DEAL...

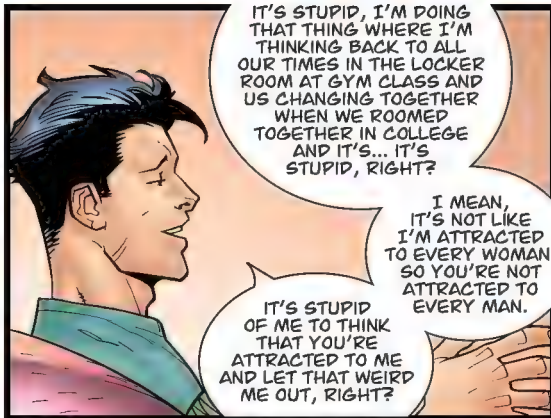


UH...

IS IT
COMPLETELY
OFFENSIVE TO
ADMIT HOW
WEIRD I THINK
THIS IS?



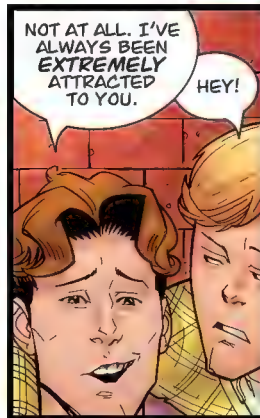
NOT
COMPLETELY.



IT'S STUPID, I'M DOING
THAT THING WHERE I'M
THINKING BACK TO ALL
OUR TIMES IN THE LOCKER
ROOM AT GYM CLASS AND
US CHANGING TOGETHER
WHEN WE ROOMED
TOGETHER IN COLLEGE
AND IT'S... IT'S
STUPID, RIGHT?

I MEAN,
IT'S NOT LIKE
I'M ATTRACTED
TO EVERY WOMAN.
SO YOU'RE NOT
ATTRACTED TO
EVERY MAN.

IT'S STUPID
OF ME TO THINK
THAT YOU'RE
ATTRACTED TO ME
AND LET THAT WEIRD
ME OUT, RIGHT?



NOT AT ALL. I'VE
ALWAYS BEEN
EXTREMELY
ATTRACTED
TO YOU.

HEY!



...



SORRY,
IT'S
TRUE.

IT'S OKAY, DON'T KNOW
THAT I CAN REALLY
BLAME YOU. HE'S
QUITE THE--

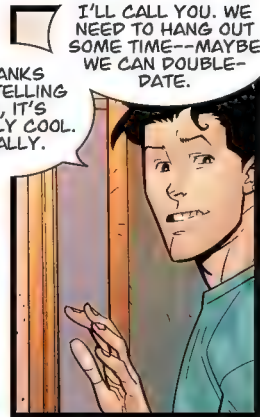
OKAY...
OKAY! I
THINK THAT'S
ENOUGH.

I'M VERY
FLATTERED,
REALLY...

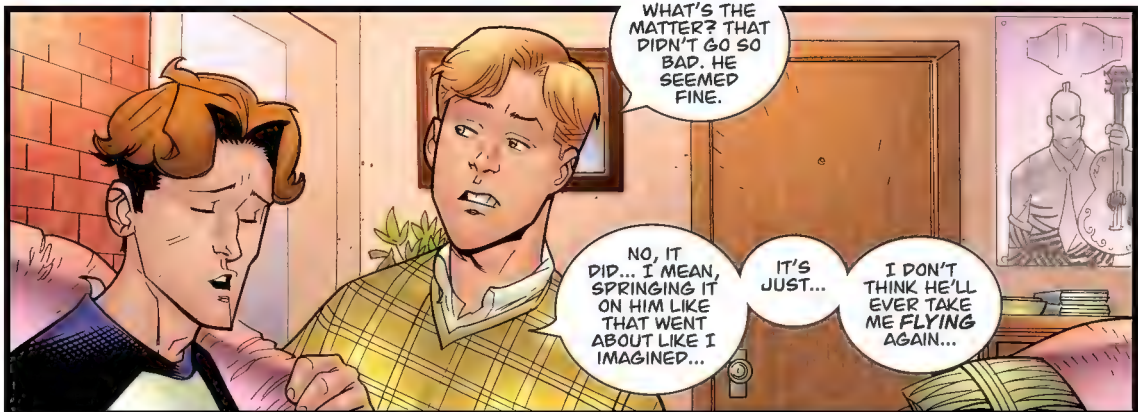


BUT I REALLY
SHOULD BE
GOING, EVE'S
PROBABLY
DONE...

THANKS
FOR TELLING
ME, IT'S
TOTALLY COOL.
REALLY.



I'LL CALL YOU. WE
NEED TO HANG OUT
SOME TIME--MAYBE
WE CAN DOUBLE-
DATE.

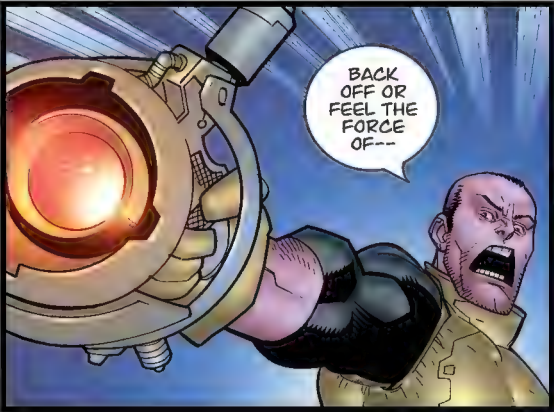


WHAT'S THE
MATTER? THAT
DIDN'T GO SO
BAD. HE
SEEMED
FINE.

NO, IT
DID... I MEAN,
SPRINGING IT
ON HIM LIKE
THAT WENT
ABOUT LIKE I
IMAGINED...

IT'S
JUST...

I DON'T
THINK HE'LL
EVER TAKE
ME FLYING
AGAIN...





I CAN'T FIGHT YOU, I DON'T STAND A CHANCE. I THOUGHT I'D RUN INTO SOMEONE LIKE REX SPOLO, I COULD HANDLE THAT.

REX SPOLO IS DEAD.

JEEZ, I'M SORRY, I HAD NO IDEA. I... LOOK, I SURRENDER OKAY? JUST-- PLEASE DON'T PUNCH ME OR ANYTHING.

WELL, YOU SEEM LIKE A REASONABLE GUY... SO, YOU DON'T HAVE TO WORRY ABOUT ME PUNCHING YOU.

BUT... WHAT EXACTLY WAS THAT THING YOU POINTED AT ME?

GRAVITY GUN. IT WORKS LIKE MY BOOTS, IT DISTORTS A GRAVITATIONAL FIELD AROUND THE AREA IT FIRES INTO. THE BOOTS ALLOW ME TO ALTER GRAVITY AROUND ME ESSENTIALLY PULLING ME TOWARD THE SURFACE MY BOOTS ARE ON--THE GUN SHOOTS A BEAM OF GRAVITY THAT PROPELS THINGS IN THE OPPOSITE DIRECTION.



IT'S A PRETTY GOOD NON-LETHAL WEAPON-- PROBABLY WOULDN'T DO ANYTHING TO YOU, THOUGH.

PROBABLY NOT. CAN I BE HONEST WITH YOU? I DON'T EVEN KNOW WHAT YOU DID. YOU DID DO SOMETHING WRONG, RIGHT?

I ROBBED A BANK, I'VE GOT TWO HUNDRED THOUSAND IN BONDS HERE.

IT WAS A CINCINCH WITH THE BOOTS, NOBODY SAW ME-- NO ONE LOOKS UP.



YOU DON'T HAVE TO TELL ME. SO THE GETUP, NECESSARY INSIDE THE BANK, SURE--BUT OUTSIDE?

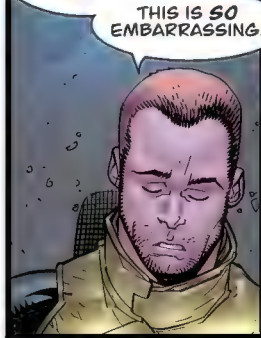
I MEAN, IF YOU'D JUST BEEN WALKING DOWN THE STREET WITH A BRIEFCASE, I PROBABLY WOULDN'T HAVE EVEN NOTICED YOU.

JUST SAYING.



WHERE WERE YOU WHEN I WAS PLANNING THIS JOB?

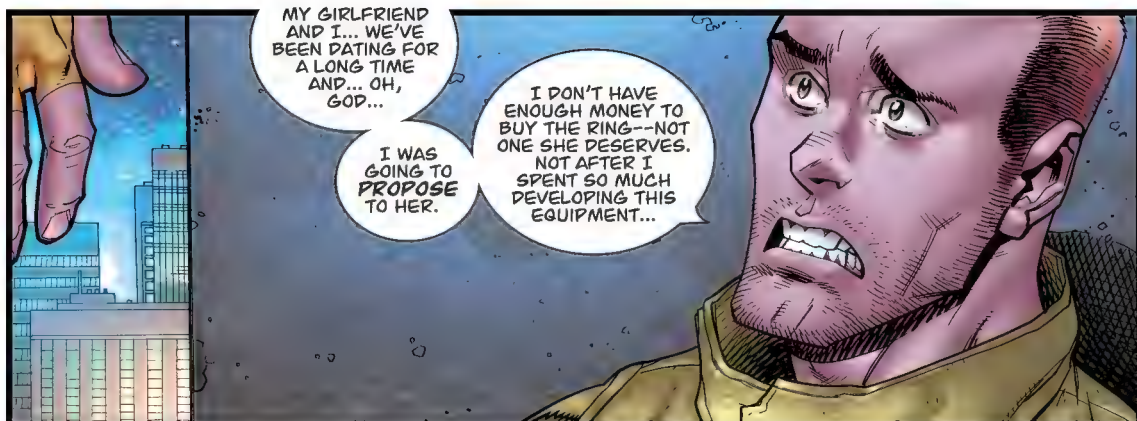
THIS IS SO EMBARRASSING.



THIS IS JUST WEIRD, YOU'RE NOT EVEN FIGHTING BACK, YOU SEEM SO... REASONABLE.

WHY'D YOU DO IT? I'M CURIOUS.







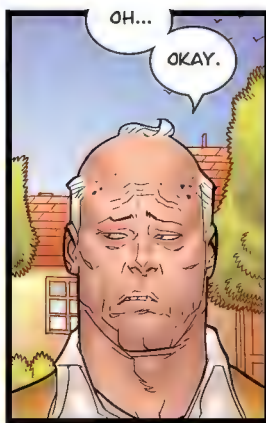
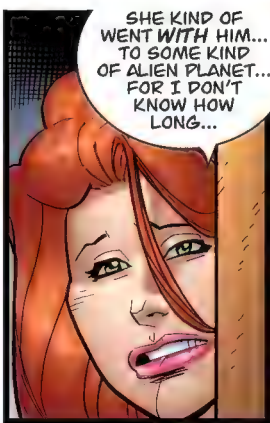
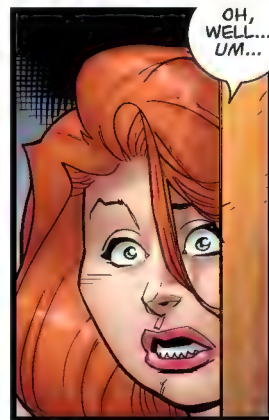
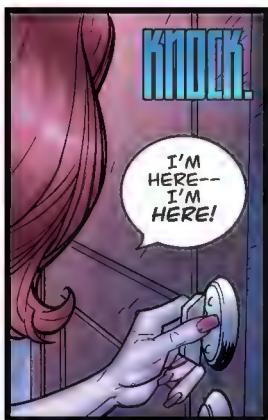
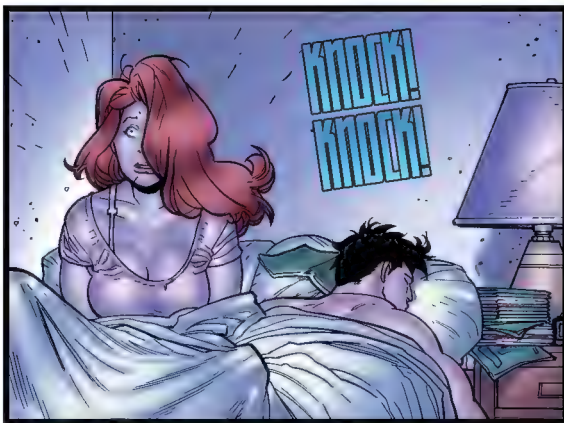
FILIP SCHAFF DID THIS THING WHERE HE PLEDGED TO BE ON TIME FOR A YEAR.

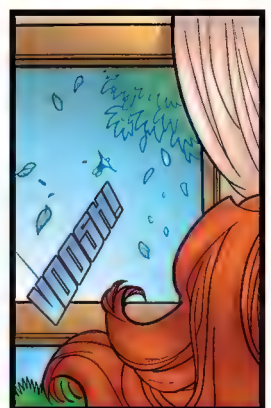
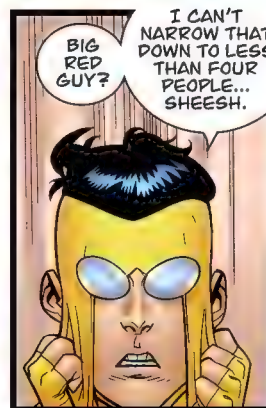
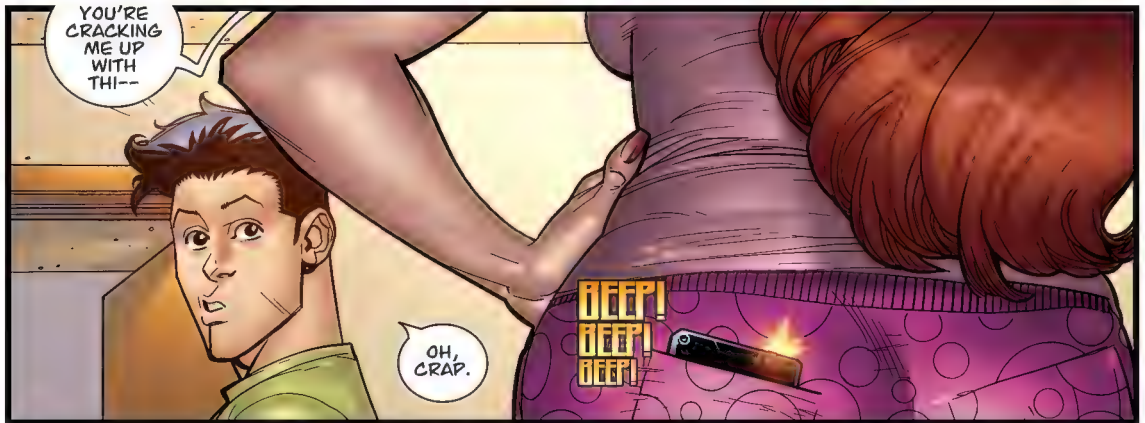
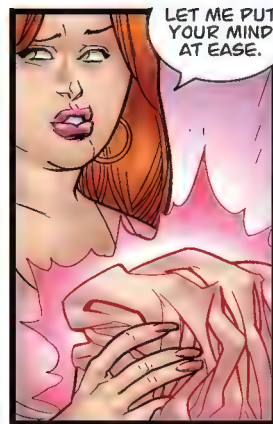
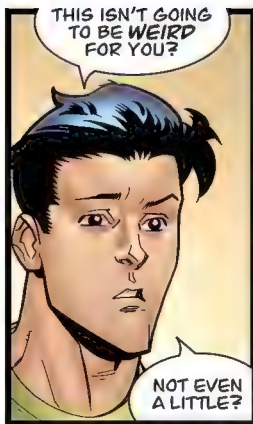
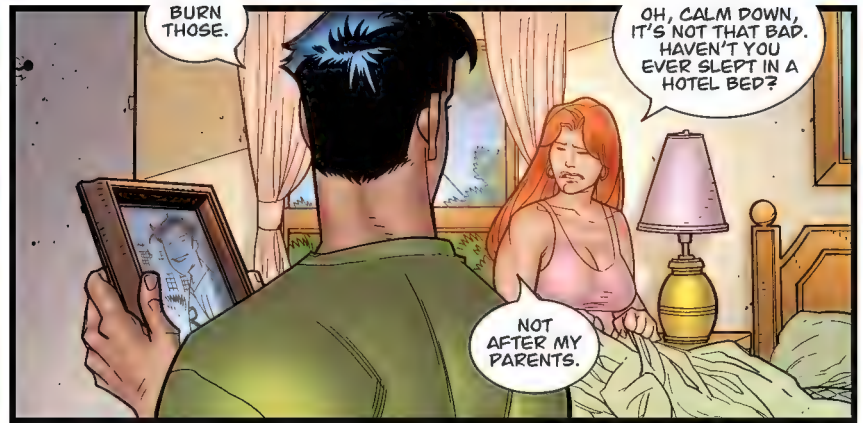


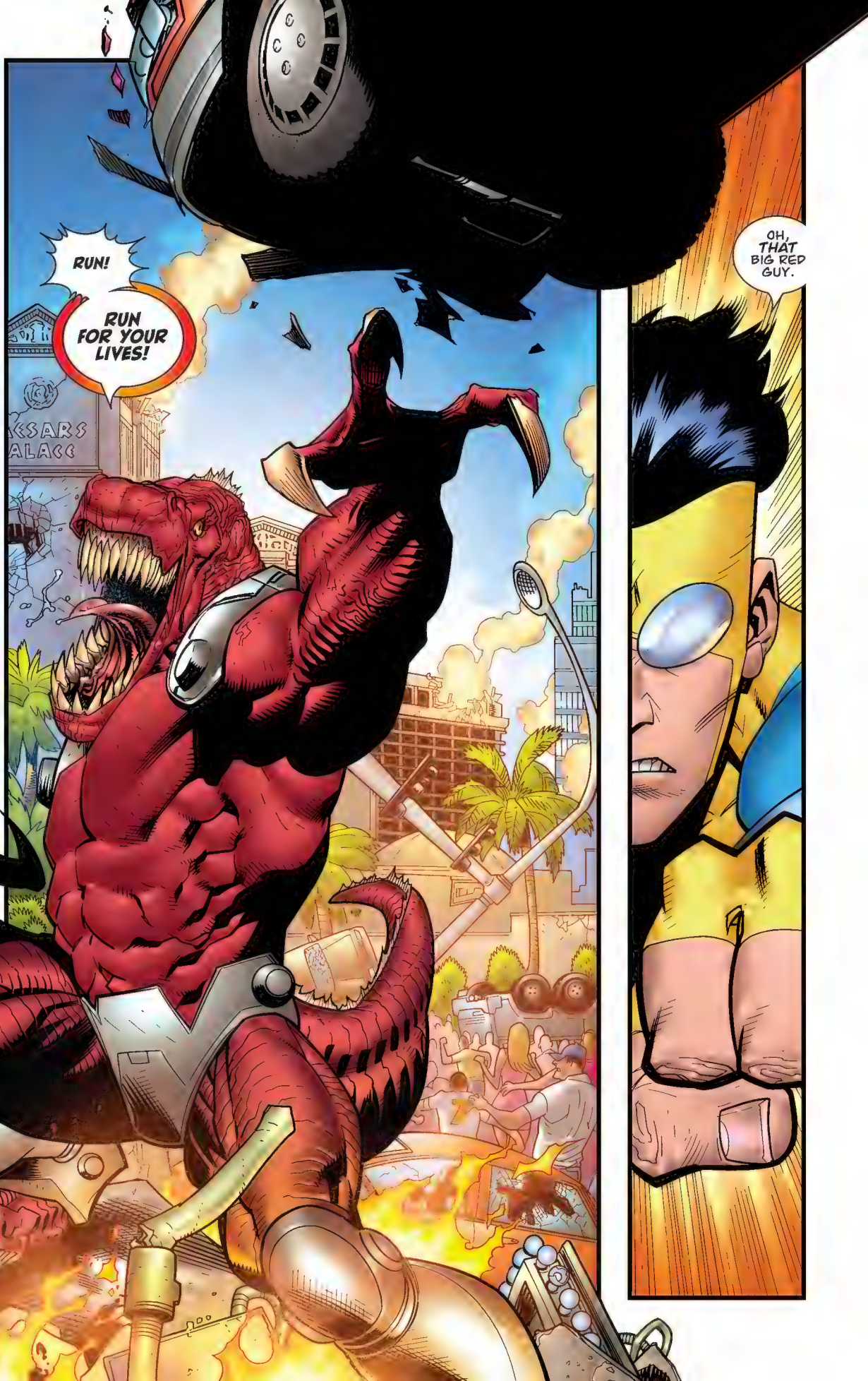
WHAT THE HECK? DID EVERY SERIES START OVER WITH A NEW ISSUE ONE? THAT BLOWS.

WHY DO THEY DO THAT? IT DOESN'T HELP SALES LONG TERM AND THEY ALWAYS JUST GO BACK TO THE NUMBERING FOR THE NEXT ANNIVERSARY ISSUE.









RUN!

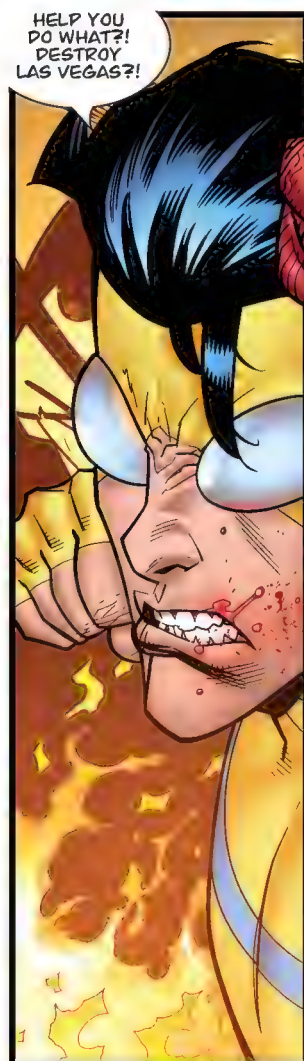
**RUN
FOR YOUR
LIVES!**

**OH,
THAT
BIG RED
GUY.**



YOU? COME TO PLAY THE HERO AGAIN, SO THAT YOU CAN TRY TO MURDER MY WEAKER SELF WHEN IT'S ALL OVER?

IF YOU WERE A TRUE HERO, YOU'D BE HELPING ME!



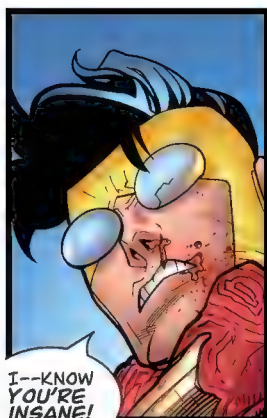
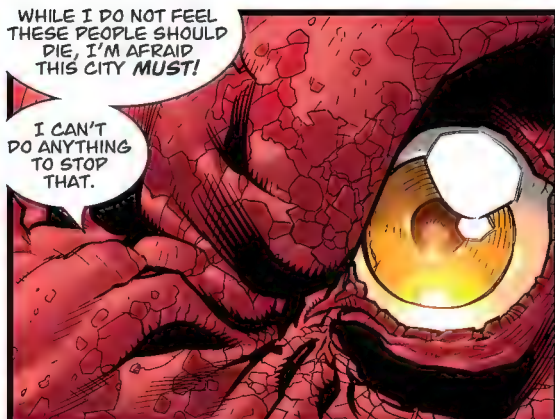
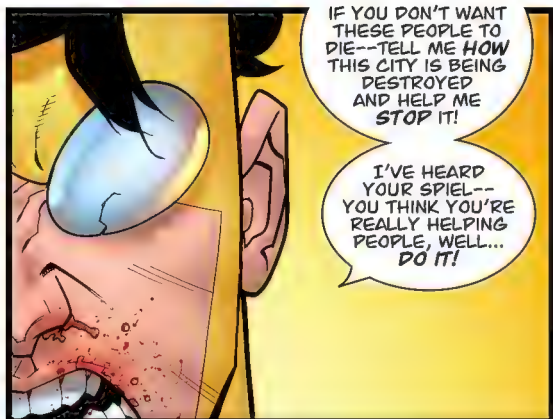
HELP YOU DO WHAT?! DESTROY LAS VEGAS?!

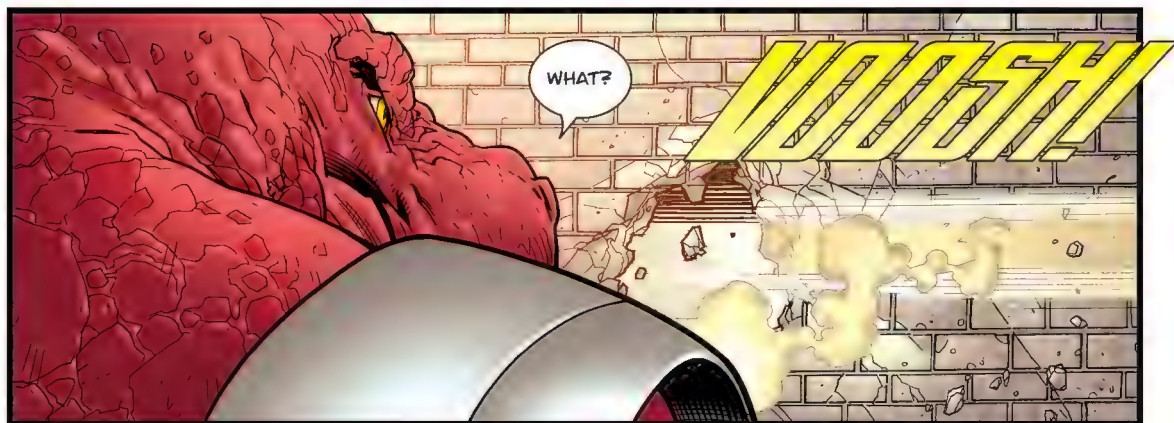


NO! YOU'D HELP ME EVACUATE LAS VEGAS BEFORE IT IS DESTROYED!

THIS CITY IS AN ABOMINATION ON THIS EARTH. IT WAS NOT MEANT TO BE HERE. A MAN-MADE OASIS IN THE MIDDLE OF A NATURALLY FORMED DESERT!

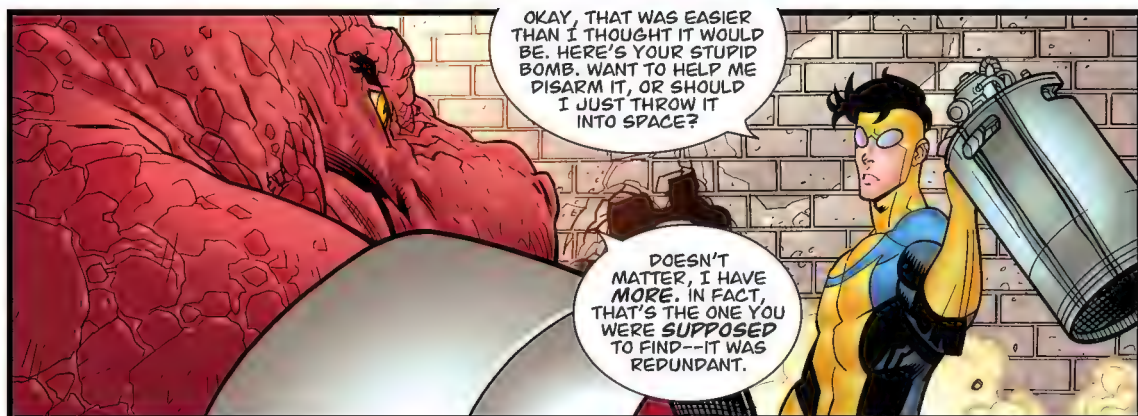
IN MINUTES, THIS CITY WILL BE NOTHING MORE THAN A MEMORY-- BUT THESE PEOPLE DON'T HAVE TO DIE!





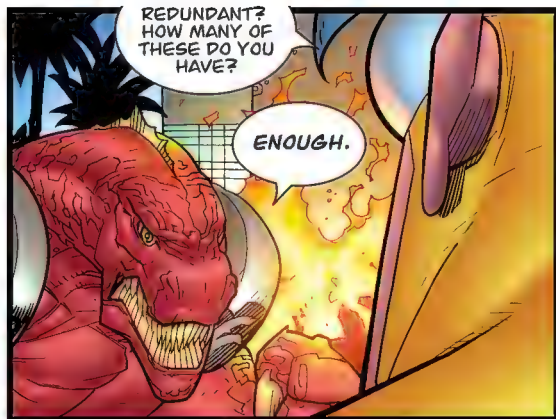
WHAT?

BOOM!



OKAY, THAT WAS EASIER THAN I THOUGHT IT WOULD BE. HERE'S YOUR STUPID BOMB. WANT TO HELP ME DISARM IT, OR SHOULD I JUST THROW IT INTO SPACE?

DOESN'T MATTER, I HAVE MORE. IN FACT, THAT'S THE ONE YOU WERE SUPPOSED TO FIND--IT WAS REDUNDANT.



REDUNDANT? HOW MANY OF THESE DO YOU HAVE?

ENOUGH.



IT TAKES AT LEAST FIFTY TO LEVEL THE CITY. I DEvised THESE BOMBS MYSELF. THEY'LL VAPORIZE EVERYTHING.

THEY'RE REALLY QUITE POWERFUL, THIS WHOLE AREA WILL BE A SOLID SHEET OF GLASS.



WHEN DO THEY GO OFF? HOW MUCH TIME DO WE HAVE?!

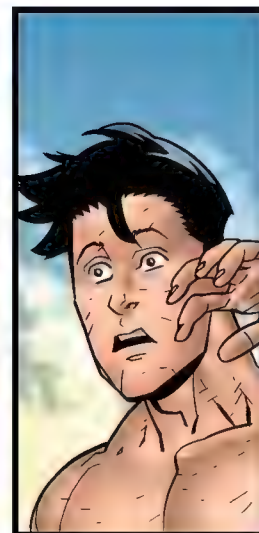
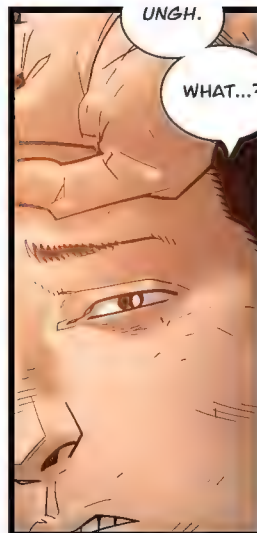
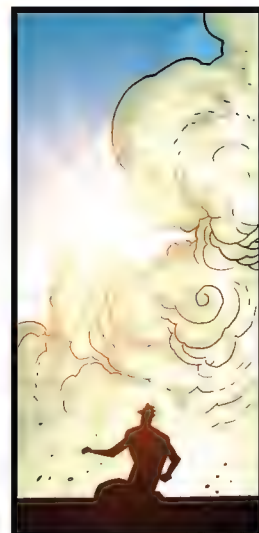
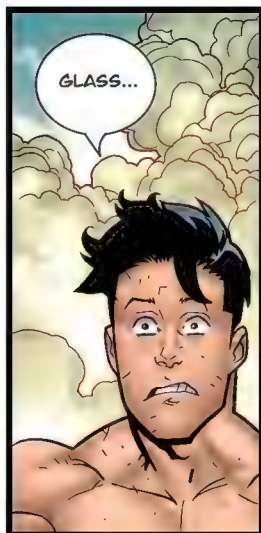
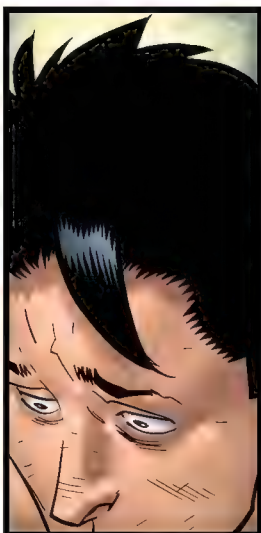
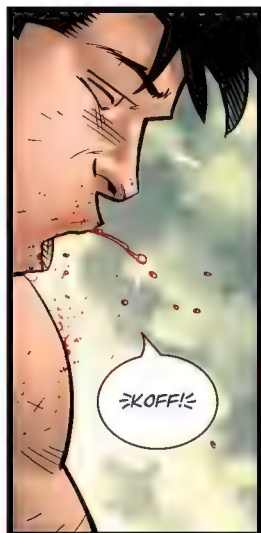
NOT ENOUGH.

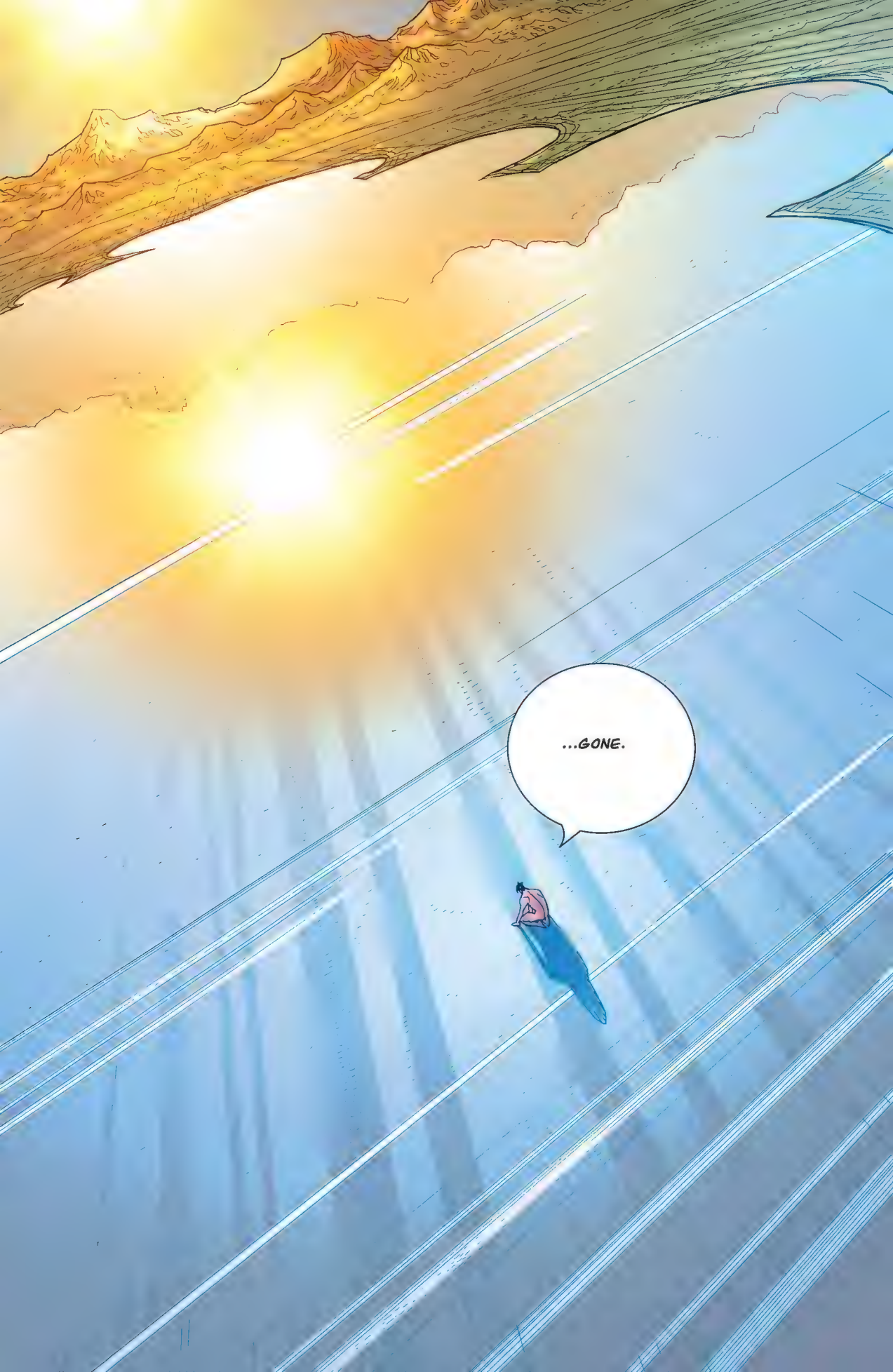
WHILE I SUSPECT I COULD SURVIVE THIS BLAST, I'M NOT CERTAIN. BUT I AM CERTAIN IT WILL BE EXTREMELY PAINFUL.

MY PLAN WAS TO EVACUATE MYSELF AS WELL. THERE'S STILL SO MUCH GOOD I COULD DO.

A PITY.







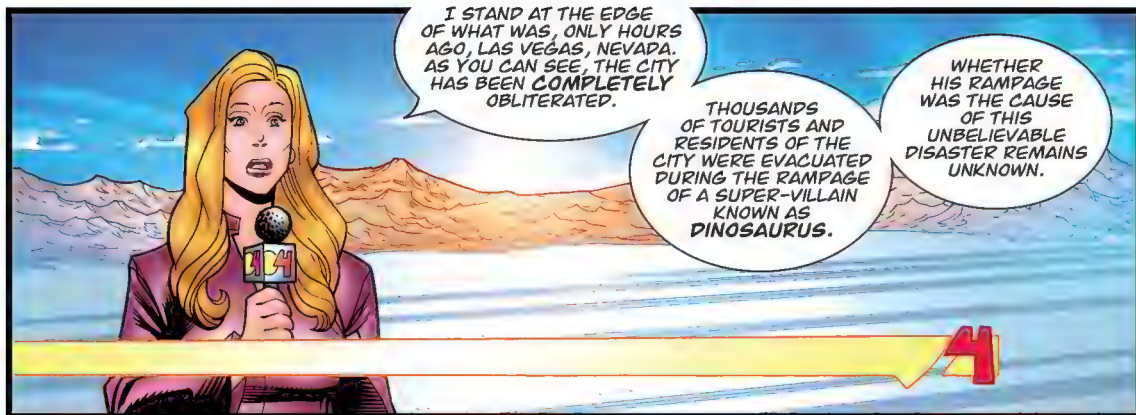
...GONE.



CHAPTER THREE



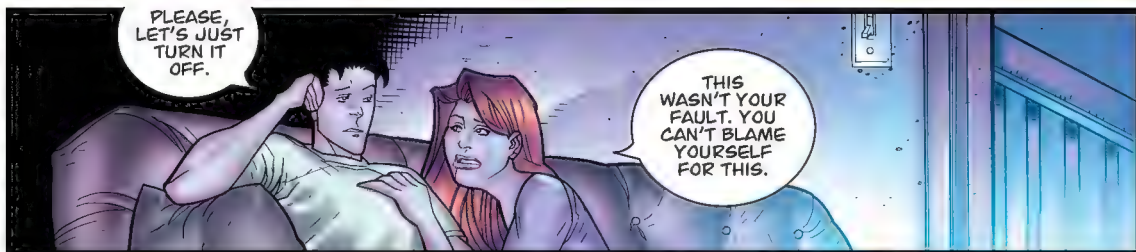
PYAN



I STAND AT THE EDGE OF WHAT WAS, ONLY HOURS AGO, LAS VEGAS, NEVADA. AS YOU CAN SEE, THE CITY HAS BEEN COMPLETELY OBLITERATED.

THOUSANDS OF TOURISTS AND RESIDENTS OF THE CITY WERE EVACUATED DURING THE RAMPAGE OF A SUPER-VILLAIN KNOWN AS DINOSAURUS.

WHETHER HIS RAMPAGE WAS THE CAUSE OF THIS UNBELIEVABLE DISASTER REMAINS UNKNOWN.

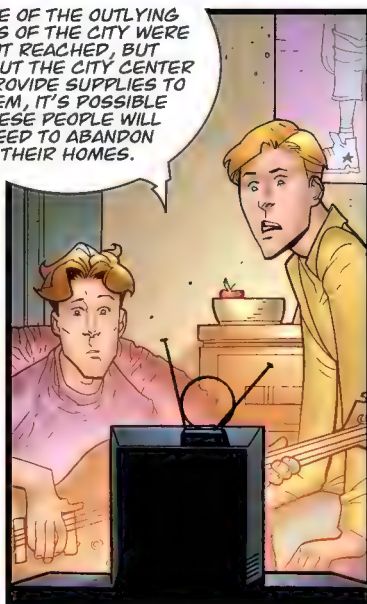


PLEASE, LET'S JUST TURN IT OFF.

THIS WASN'T YOUR FAULT. YOU CAN'T BLAME YOURSELF FOR THIS.



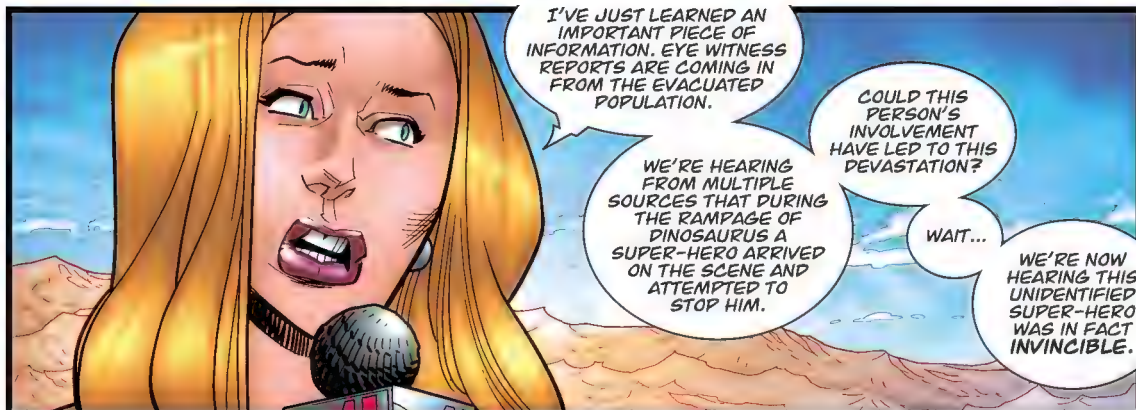
WHAT WE DO KNOW IS THAT THE AREA IS NOT RADIOACTIVE, SO IT WAS SOME KIND OF UNKNOWN EXPLOSIVE DEVICE THAT CAUSED THE DESTRUCTION.



SOME OF THE OUTLYING AREAS OF THE CITY WERE NOT REACHED, BUT WITHOUT THE CITY CENTER TO PROVIDE SUPPLIES TO THEM, IT'S POSSIBLE THESE PEOPLE WILL NEED TO ABANDON THEIR HOMES.



WHILE HUNDREDS OF THOUSANDS WERE EVACUATED IN THE HOURS BEFORE THE EXPLOSION, THOUSANDS ARE MISSING, AND PRESUMED DEAD.



I'VE JUST LEARNED AN IMPORTANT PIECE OF INFORMATION. EYE WITNESS REPORTS ARE COMING IN FROM THE EVACUATED POPULATION.

WE'RE HEARING FROM MULTIPLE SOURCES THAT DURING THE RAMPAGE OF DINOSAURUS A SUPER-HERO ARRIVED ON THE SCENE AND ATTEMPTED TO STOP HIM.

COULD THIS PERSON'S INVOLVEMENT HAVE LED TO THIS DEVASTATION?

WAIT...

WE'RE NOW HEARING THIS UNIDENTIFIED SUPER-HERO WAS IN FACT INVINCIBLE.

WHAT?!





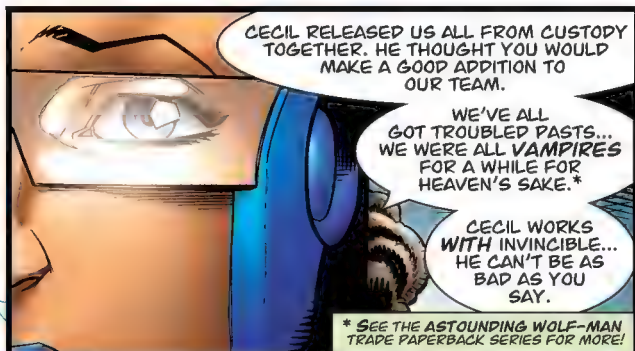
POWERPLEX,
PLEASE...
CALM DOWN.
THIS ISN'T
LIKE YOU
AT ALL.

I KNOW
YOUR HISTORY
WITH INVINCIBLE,
BUT THIS
JUST ISN'T
ACCEPTABLE
BEHAVIOR.

I KNOW... I'M
SORRY, KINETIC.
IT'S JUST, I WASN'T
READY FOR THIS.
WHEN INVINCIBLE
DISAPPEARED FOR
SO LONG, I
THOUGHT IT
WAS OVER.

I'M THANKFUL
THAT YOU GUYS
HAVE TAKEN ME IN,
ALLOWED ME TO JOIN
THE ACTIONEERS...
AND I'M REALLY
TRYING TO CONTROL
MYSELF.

I JUST...
WASN'T
PREPARED.
I'M SORRY IF
I STARTLED
YOU.

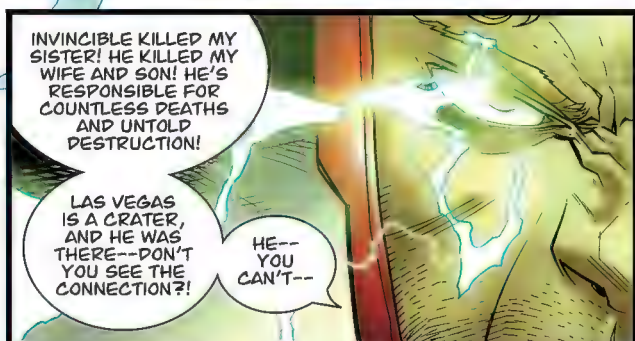


CECIL RELEASED US ALL FROM CUSTODY
TOGETHER. HE THOUGHT YOU WOULD
MAKE A GOOD ADDITION TO
OUR TEAM.

WE'VE ALL
GOT TROUBLED PASTS...
WE WERE ALL VAMPIRES
FOR A WHILE FOR
HEAVEN'S SAKE.*

CECIL WORKS
WITH INVINCIBLE...
HE CAN'T BE AS
BAD AS YOU
SAY.

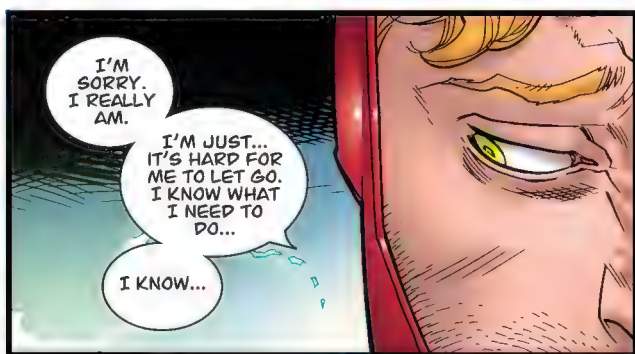
* SEE THE ASTOUNDING WOLF-MAN
TRADE PAPERBACK SERIES FOR MORE!



INVINCIBLE KILLED MY
SISTER! HE KILLED MY
WIFE AND SON! HE'S
RESPONSIBLE FOR
COUNTLESS DEATHS
AND UNTOLD
DESTRUCTION!

LAS VEGAS
IS A CRATER,
AND HE WAS
THERE--DON'T
YOU SEE THE
CONNECTION?!

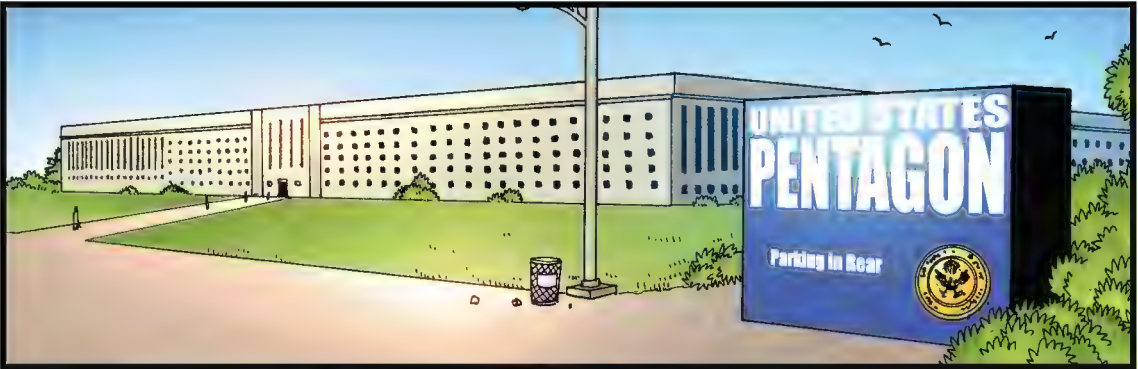
HE--
YOU CAN'T--



I'M
SORRY.
I REALLY
AM.

I'M JUST...
IT'S HARD FOR
ME TO LET GO.
I KNOW WHAT
I NEED TO
DO...

I KNOW...





THE KID'S HAVING A HARD TIME WITH THIS ONE... YOU CAN SEE IT IN HIS EYES.

YOU'LL FEEL LESS SORRY FOR HIM WHEN YOU'VE BEEN **CHOKED** BY HIM AS MANY TIMES AS I HAVE.

LET HIM SUFFER... HE COULD USE A LITTLE HUMILITY.

THE FACT REMAINS, HE'S A ROGUE ELEMENT. HIS LITTLE SIDE BUSINESS WITH ATOM EVE, HIS SUPERHERO PROTECTION RACKET...

...IF THIS IS THE KIND OF THING IT LEADS TO, WE NEED TO MANAGE THAT, POSSIBLY TAKE OVER.



ARE WE REALLY ENTERTAINING FOR A SECOND THAT THIS WAS IN SOME WAY HIS FAULT?

HAVE YOU SEEN MY MISSION LOGS? I'VE BEEN PRESENT FOR AT LEAST THREE CITY DESTRUCTIONS IN THE PAST--I'VE STILL GOT A SEAT AT THE TABLE.

ARE YOU GUYS BLAMING ME FOR PARIS?*

*SEE GUARDING THE GLOBE, VOLUME ONE!



NO, AND OF COURSE I DON'T ACTUALLY BLAME INVINCIBLE FOR LAS VEGAS.

PARIS... VEGAS... THE FACT IS IT REFLECTS POORLY ON **US**. WE NEED TO BE BETTER ORGANIZED. THE ORDER, THIS MANIAC DINOSAURUS... OUR OPPONENTS ARE GETTING BETTER...



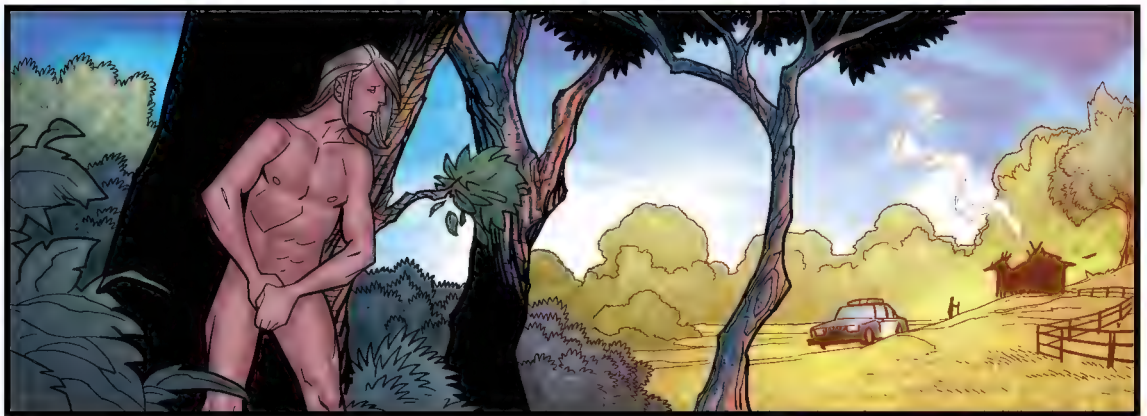
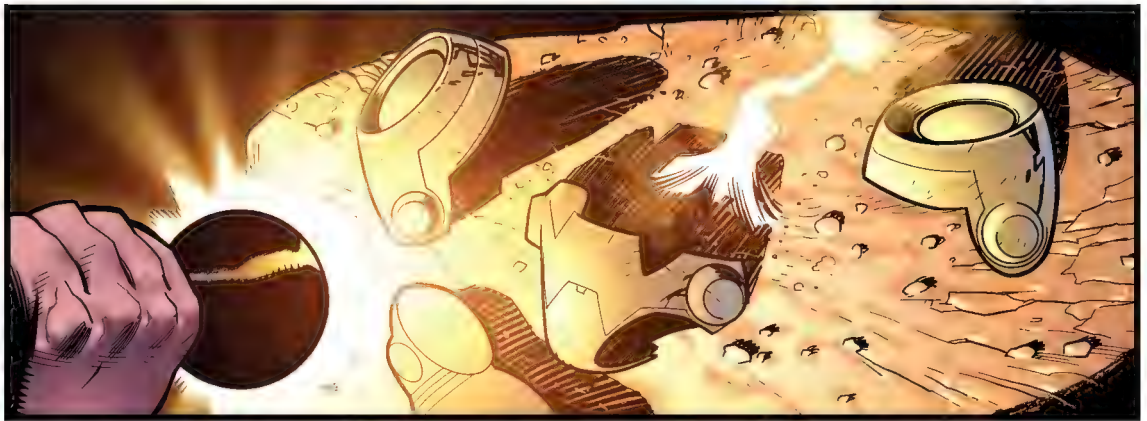
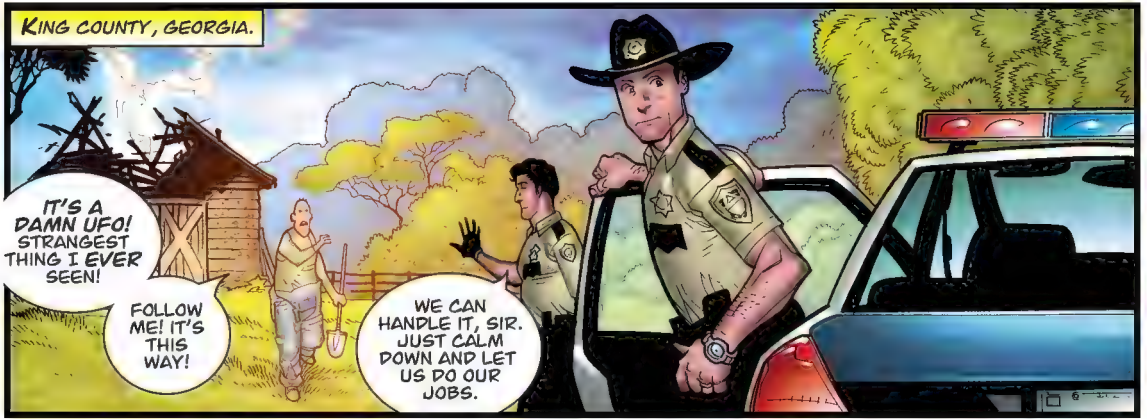
WE HAVE TO GET BETTER.

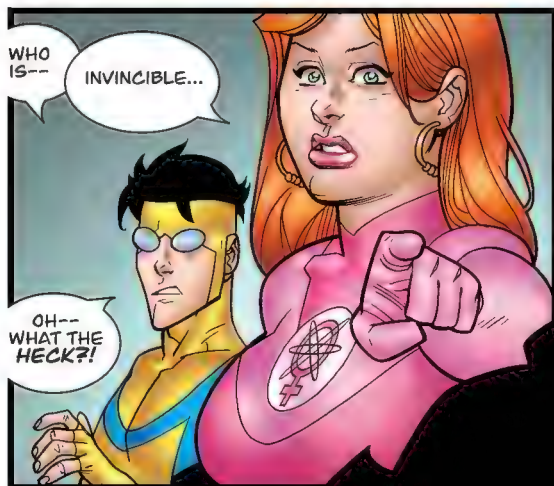
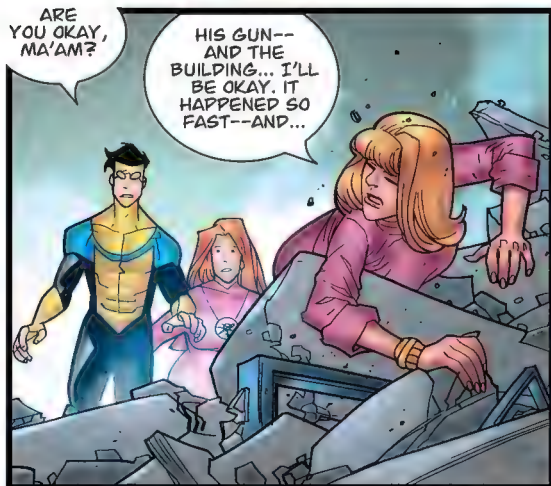
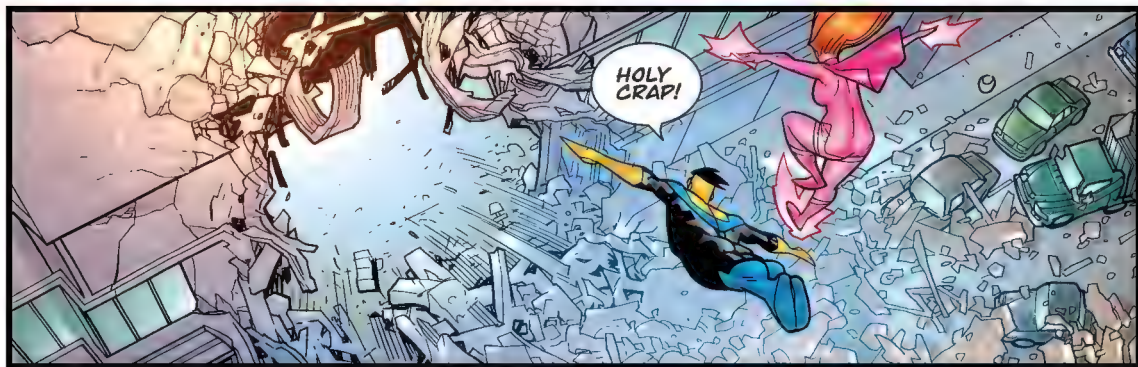
ON THIS DINOSAURUS CHARACTER... I DO NOT BUY THAT HE WAS VAPORIZED IN THE EXPLOSION-- HE CAN HOLD HIS OWN AGAINST INVINCIBLE... I'M CALLING IT RIGHT NOW.

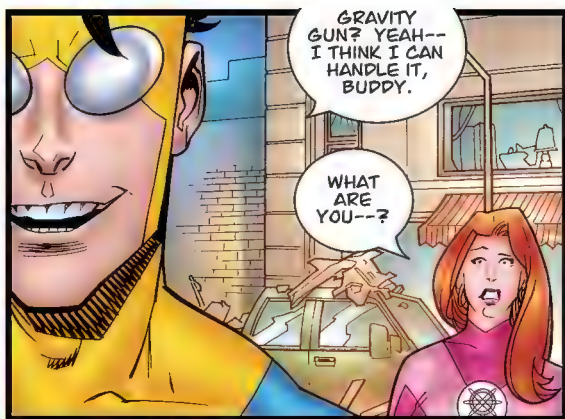
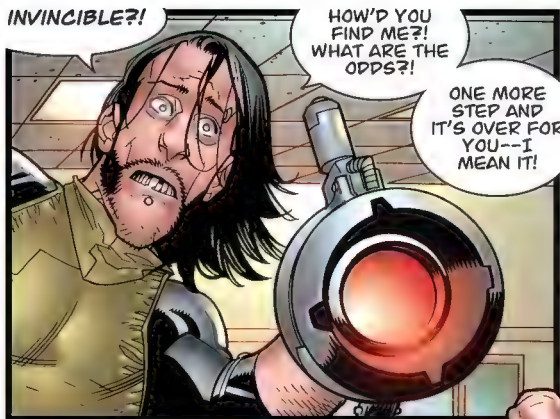
HE SURVIVED.

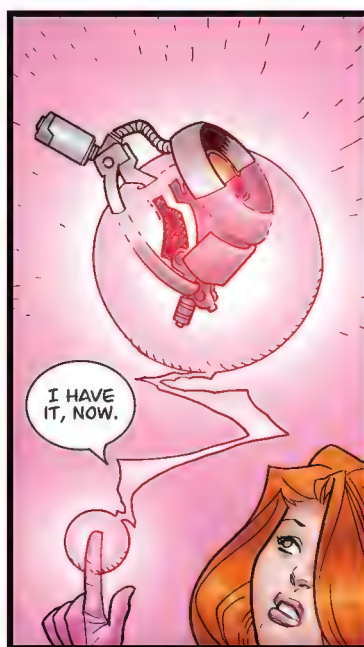
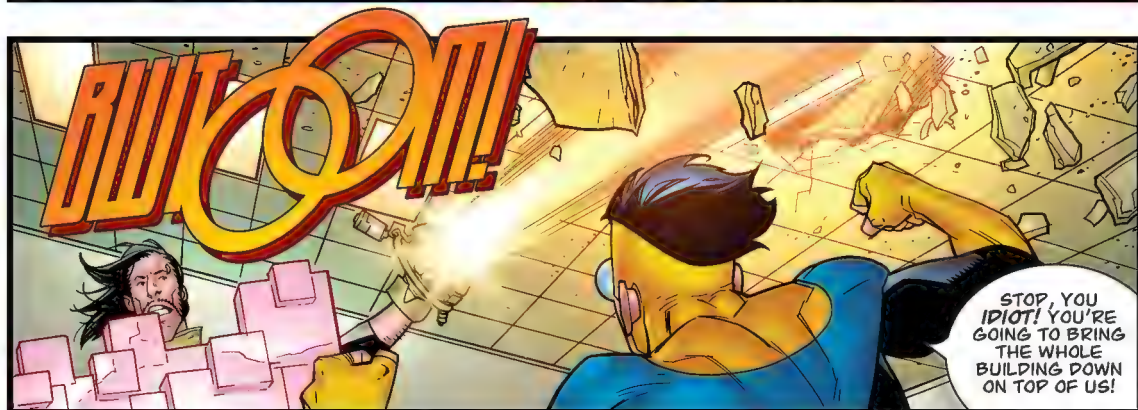
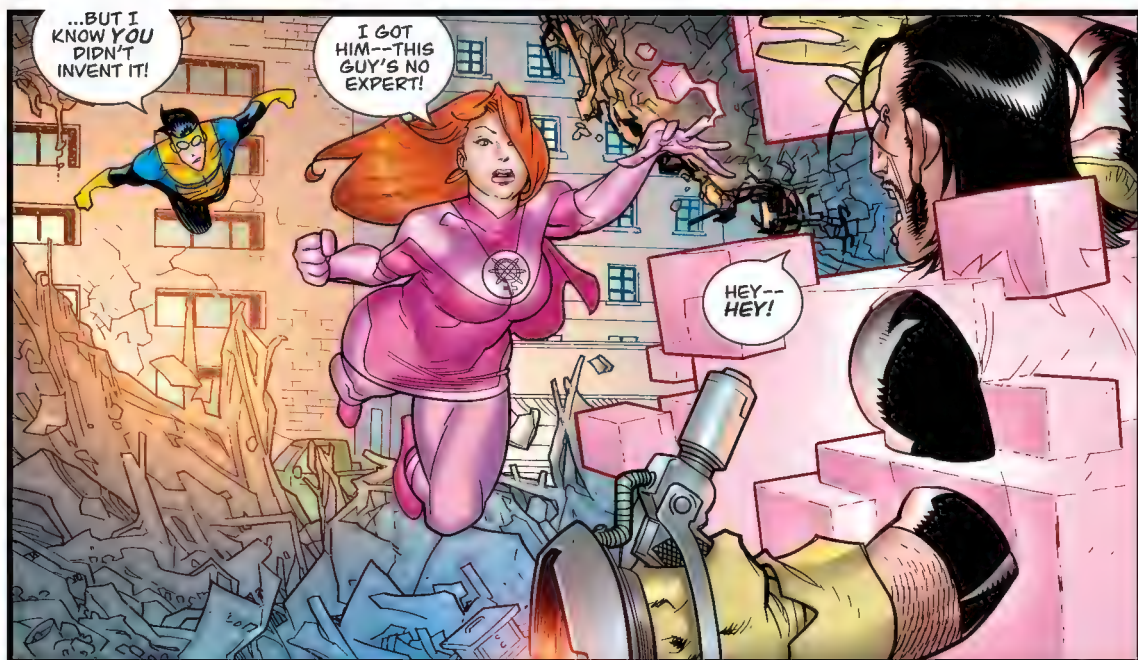
WE NEED TO FIND HIM BEFORE HE STRIKES AGAIN.

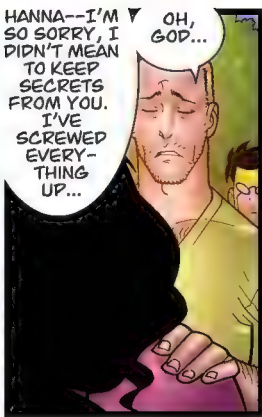
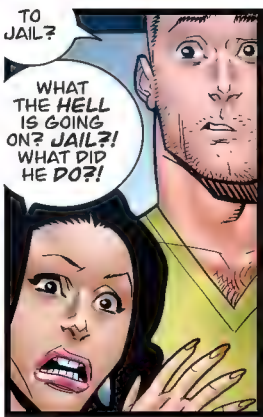


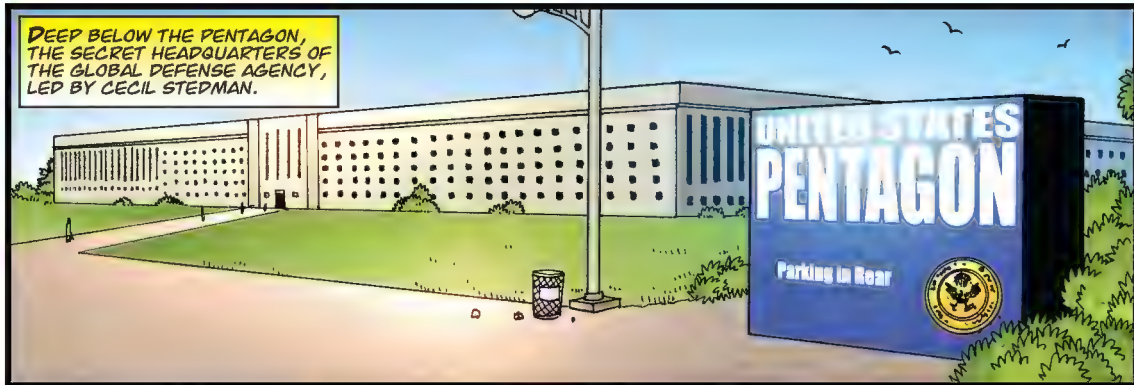












DEEP BELOW THE PENTAGON, THE SECRET HEADQUARTERS OF THE GLOBAL DEFENSE AGENCY, LED BY CECIL STEPDMAN.



WHAT YOU'VE BEEN ABLE TO DO ON YOUR OWN IS NOTHING SHORT OF AMAZING. I LOOK FORWARD TO BEING ABLE TO WORK WITH YOU. WE REALLY ARE THE BEST OF THE BEST HERE.

YOU'LL HAVE THE MOST ADVANCED TECHNOLOGY AT YOUR DISPOSAL, THINGS YOU'VE ONLY DREAMED OF.

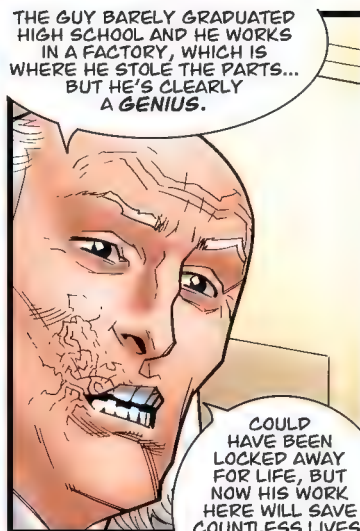
AND... YOU GUYS ARE GOING TO PAY ME?

YES, YOU'LL BE EXTREMELY WELL COMPENSATED FOR YOUR WORK HERE.



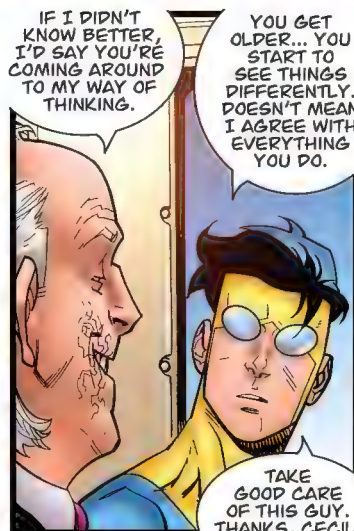
THIS IS JUST... UNHEARD OF, REALLY. HE JUST... INVENTED THIS STUFF SO HE COULD GET AN ENGAGEMENT RING?

YEAH, AND YOU SAY HE HAS NO TECHNICAL EDUCATION?



THE GUY BARELY GRADUATED HIGH SCHOOL AND HE WORKS IN A FACTORY, WHICH IS WHERE HE STOLE THE PARTS... BUT HE'S CLEARLY A GENIUS.

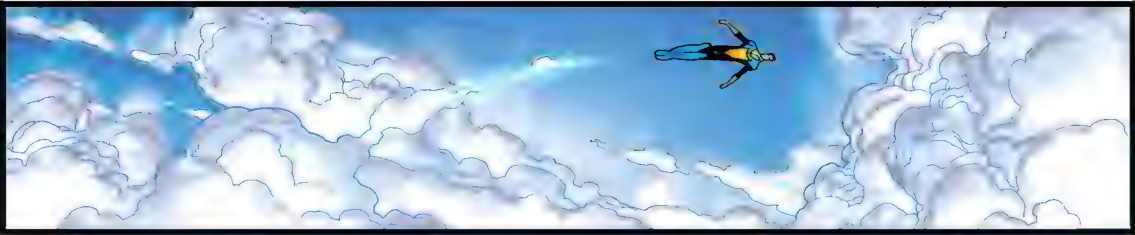
COULD HAVE BEEN LOCKED AWAY FOR LIFE, BUT NOW HIS WORK HERE WILL SAVE COUNTLESS LIVES.



IF I DIDN'T KNOW BETTER, I'D SAY YOU'RE COMING AROUND TO MY WAY OF THINKING.

YOU GET OLDER... YOU START TO SEE THINGS DIFFERENTLY. DOESN'T MEAN I AGREE WITH EVERYTHING YOU DO.

TAKE GOOD CARE OF THIS GUY. THANKS, CECIL.





WHY COULDN'T YOU HAVE STAYED IN SPACE?! THINGS WERE SO MUCH BETTER WITHOUT YOU HERE!

I WAS GETTING MY LIFE IN ORDER... DEALING WITH BECKY AND JACK'S DEATH... I WAS COPING--DOING SOME GOOD EVEN.

I WAS RELEASED, I JOINED THE ACTIONEERS!



THANKS FOR THE UPDATE?

WHAT DO YOU WANT ME TO SAY?



LAS VEGAS!

HOW MANY PEOPLE HAVE TO DIE BEFORE YOU SEE WHAT YOU'VE DONE?! ARE YOU REALLY OBLIVIOUS TO THE DESTRUCTION YOU CAUSE?

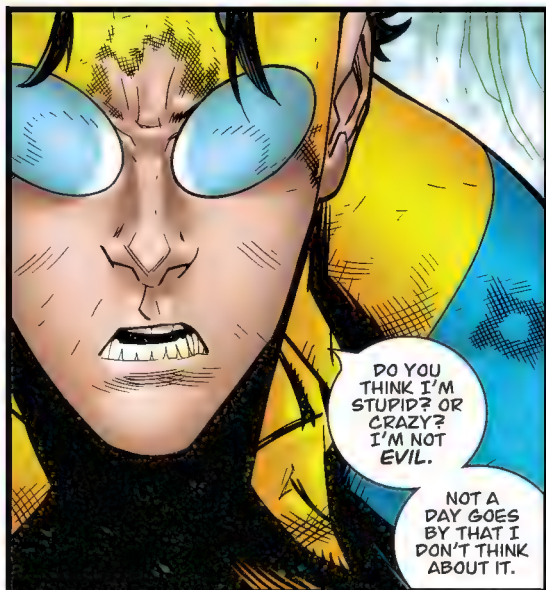


NO. HOW COULD I BE?!

I KNOW HOW MANY DEATHS I'VE CAUSED... IT WEIGHS ON ME.

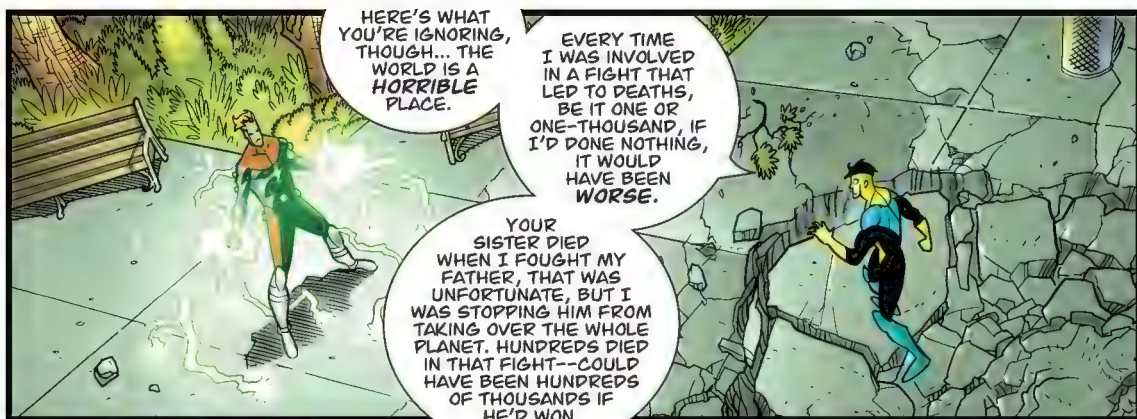


WHAT?



DO YOU THINK I'M STUPID? OR CRAZY? I'M NOT EVIL.

NOT A DAY GOES BY THAT I DON'T THINK ABOUT IT.



HERE'S WHAT YOU'RE IGNORING, THOUGH... THE WORLD IS A HORRIBLE PLACE.

EVERY TIME I WAS INVOLVED IN A FIGHT THAT LED TO DEATHS, BE IT ONE OR ONE-THOUSAND, IF I'D DONE NOTHING, IT WOULD HAVE BEEN WORSE.

YOUR SISTER DIED WHEN I FOUGHT MY FATHER, THAT WAS UNFORTUNATE, BUT I WAS STOPPING HIM FROM TAKING OVER THE WHOLE PLANET. HUNDREDS DIED IN THAT FIGHT--COULD HAVE BEEN HUNDREDS OF THOUSANDS IF HE'D WON.



BZZZAKKT!

YOU LIE!



ACK!

I'M NOT--LYING--AND I'M--NOT GOING TO FIGHT YOU--I KNOW HOW YOU ABSORB ENERGY.



BZZKKT!

COUNTLESS DEATHS ARE THE RESULT OF YOUR BATTLES! I REFUSE TO BELIEVE THINGS WOULDN'T BE BETTER WITHOUT YOU!

YOU'RE RECKLESS, SLOPPY-- YOU MAKE SITUATIONS WORSE!

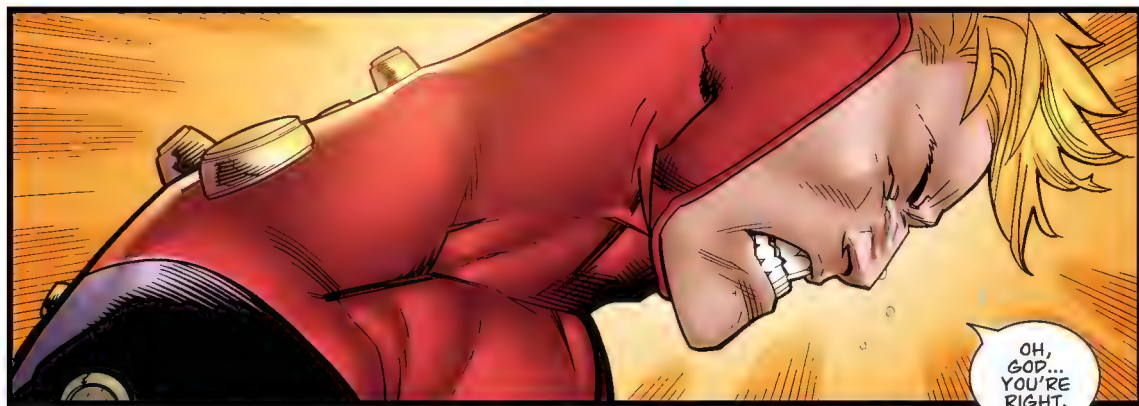
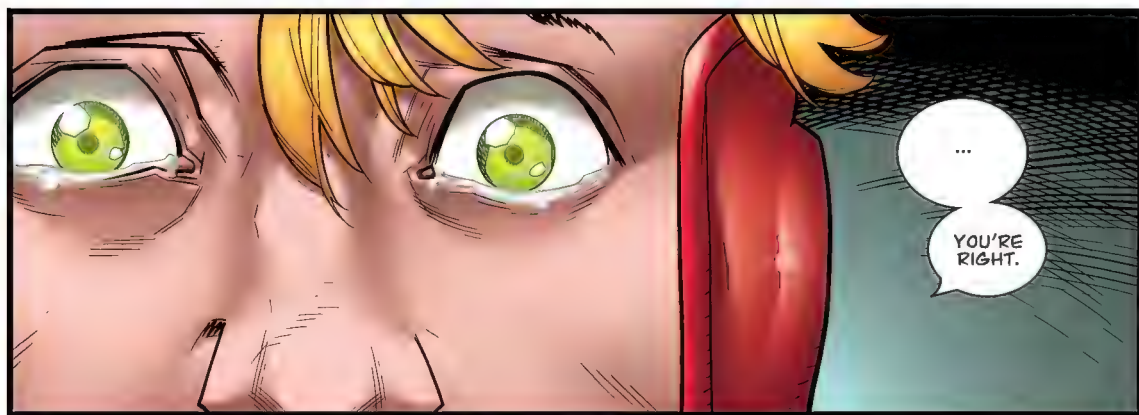
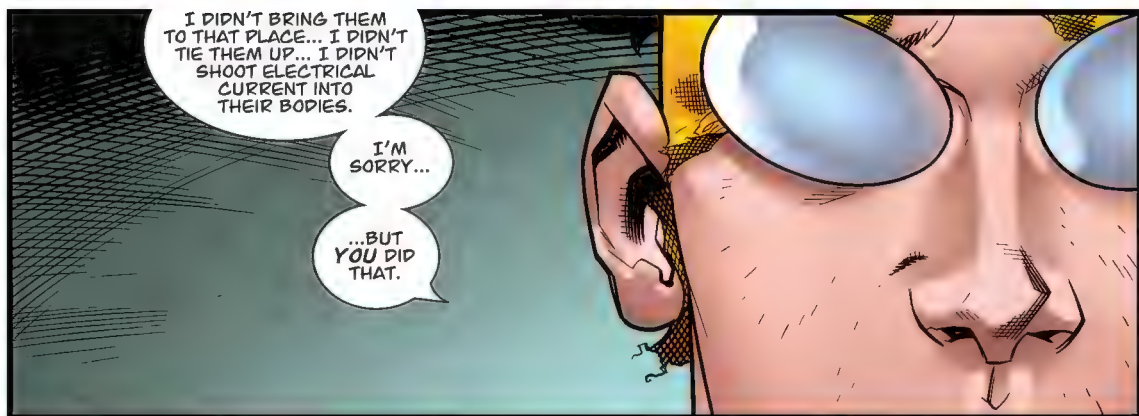
YOU'RE **WRONG**-- AND YOU'RE ALMOST OUT OF ENERGY, YOUR BLASTS ARE--WEAKER.

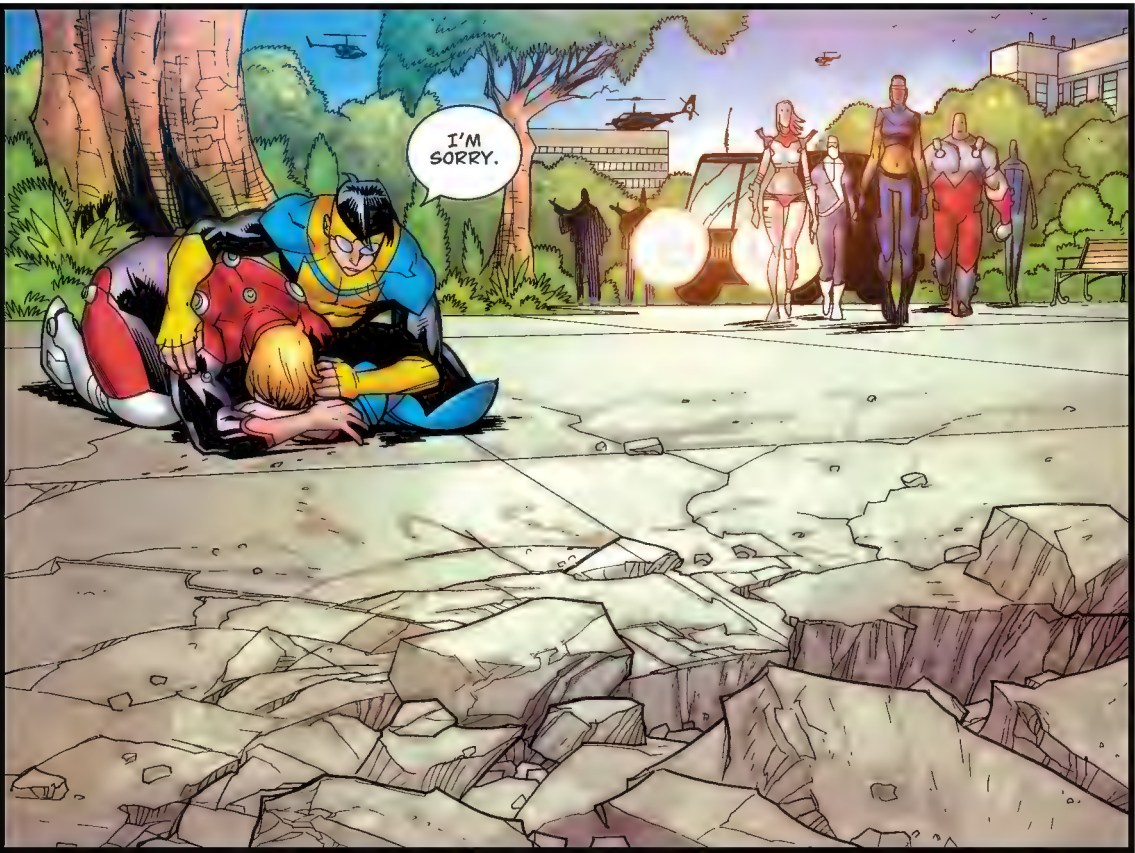
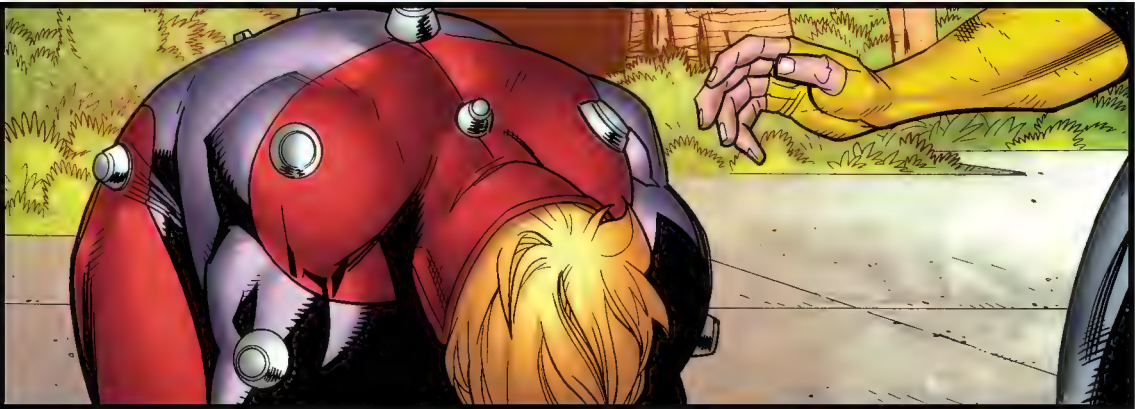
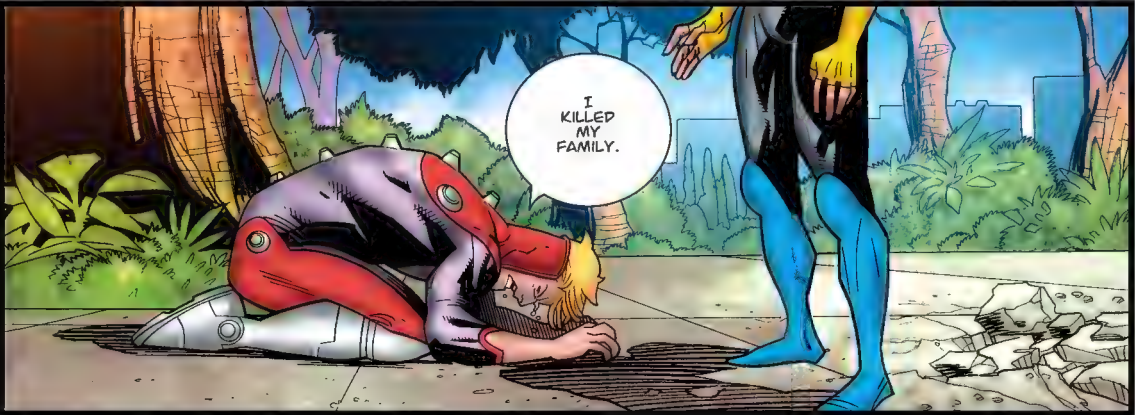


I'VE SAVED THE WORLD, POWERPLEX!

THAT'S WHAT I WAS DOING IN SPACE-- THAT'S WHAT I DO--WHAT I WAS TRYING TO DO IN LAS VEGAS.

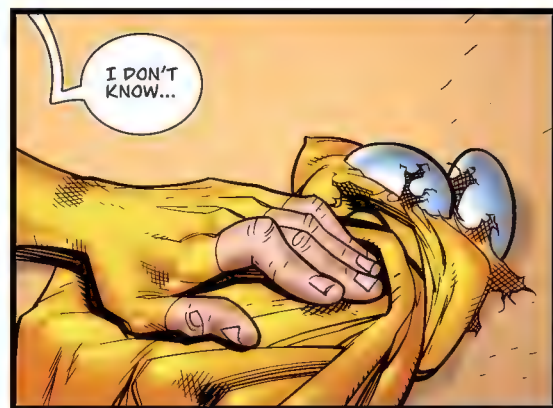
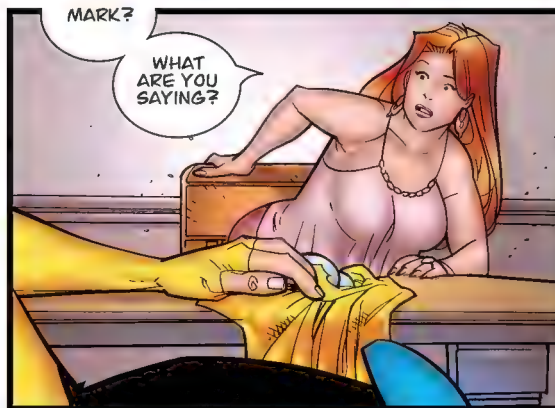
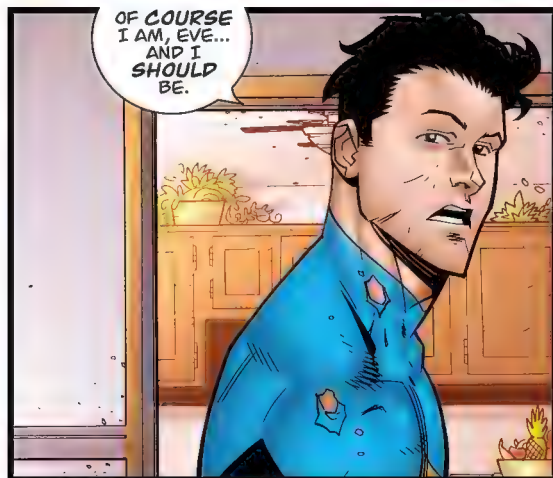
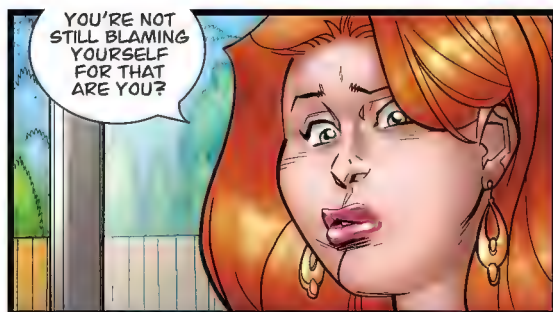
I DIDN'T PLANT THOSE BOMBS THERE, I DIDN'T TURN THEM ON--ALL I DID WAS FAIL TO STOP THEM.

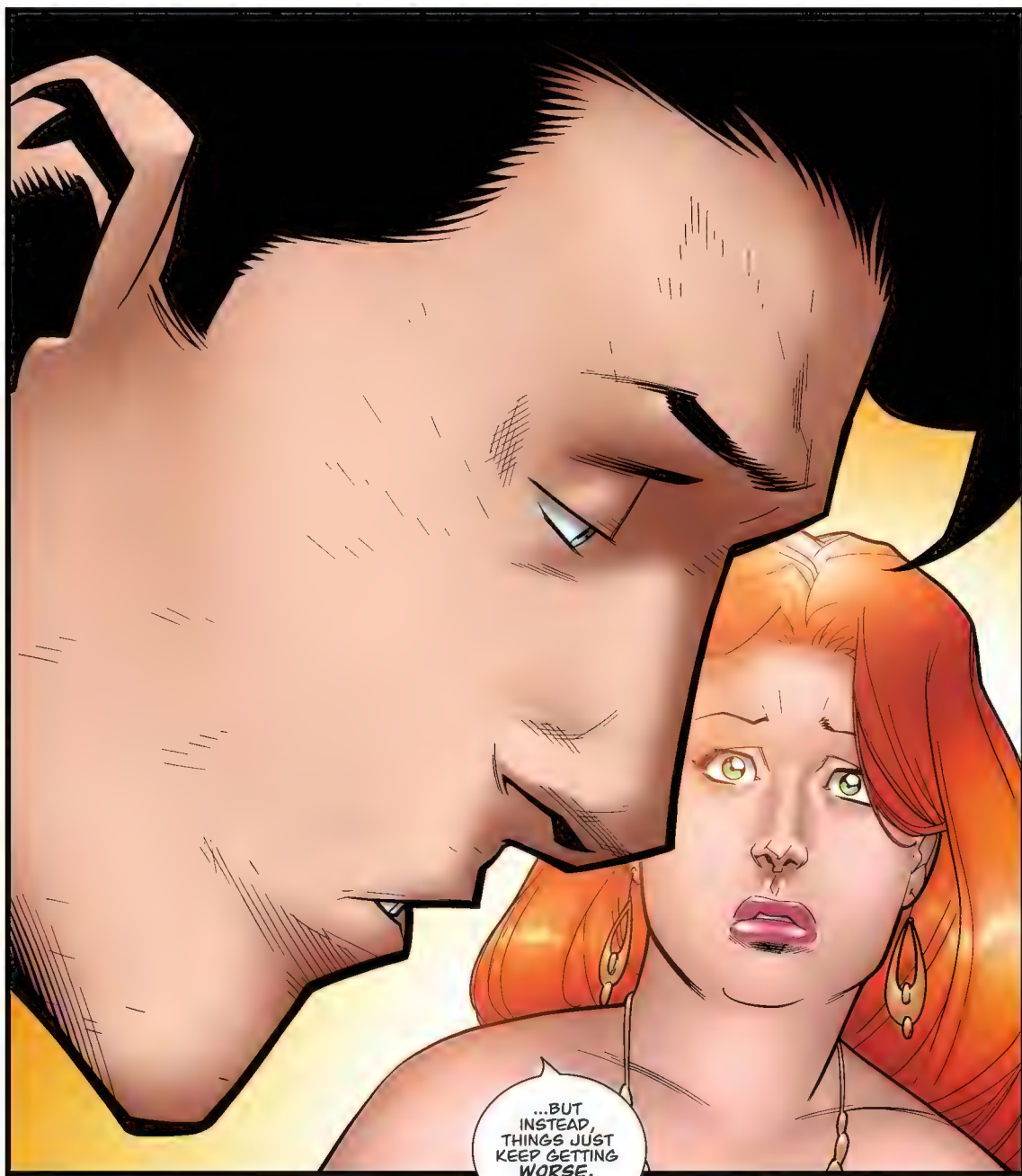
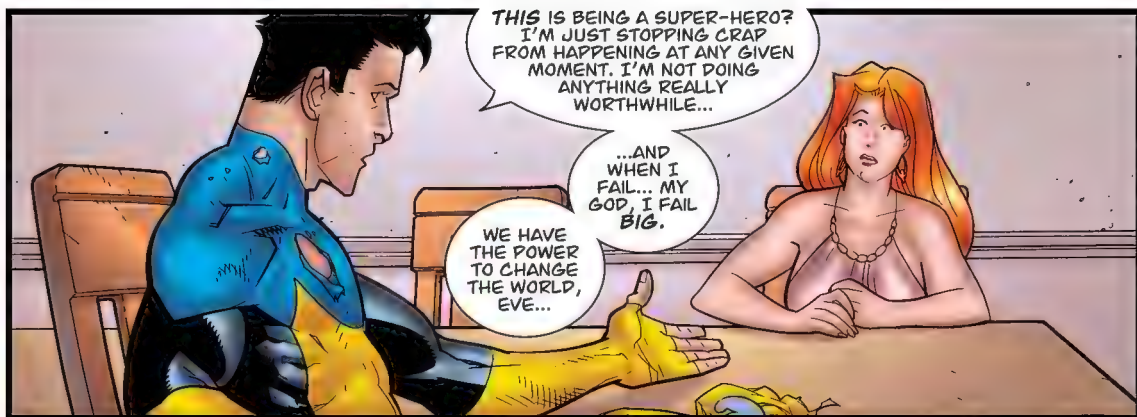


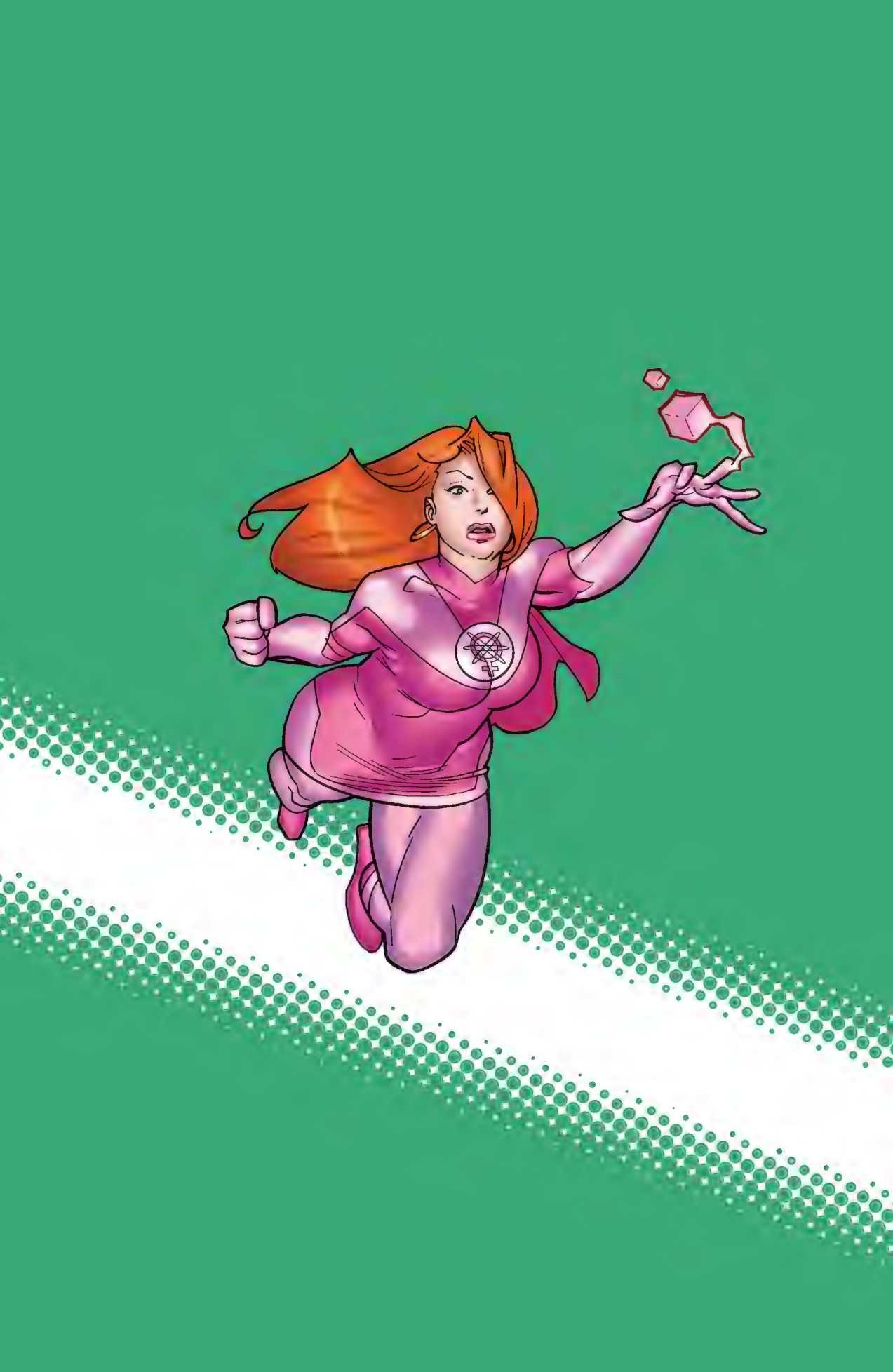












CHAPTER FOUR

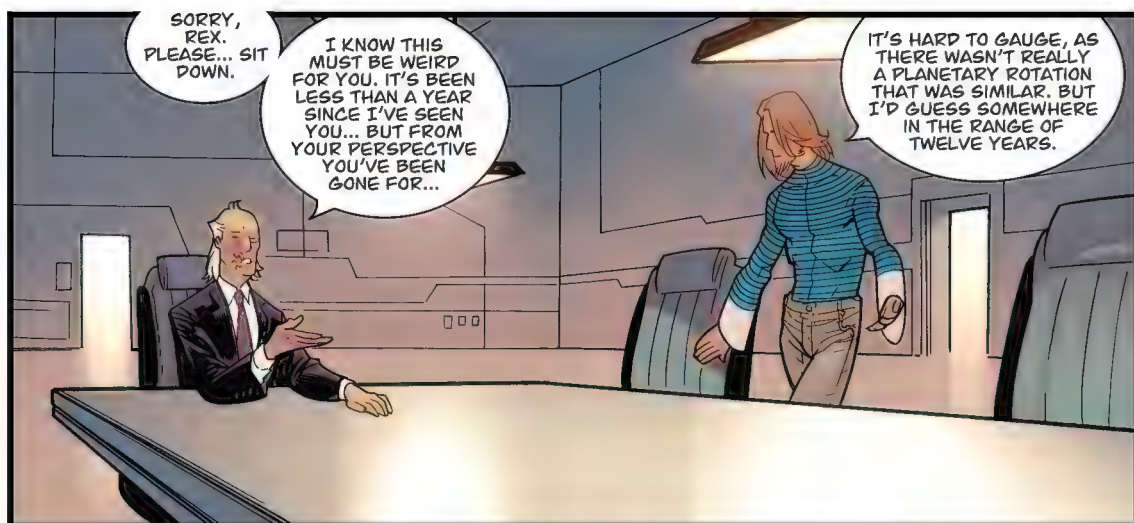




YOU
WANTED
TO SEE ME,
SIR?

ROBOT,
YES... IT'S
GOOD TO
HAVE YOU
BACK.

REX,
ACTUALLY...
IF YOU
WOULD. I
PREFER
THAT,
NOW.



SORRY, REX. PLEASE... SIT DOWN.

I KNOW THIS MUST BE WEIRD FOR YOU. IT'S BEEN LESS THAN A YEAR SINCE I'VE SEEN YOU... BUT FROM YOUR PERSPECTIVE YOU'VE BEEN GONE FOR...

IT'S HARD TO GAUGE, AS THERE WASN'T REALLY A PLANETARY ROTATION THAT WAS SIMILAR. BUT I'D GUESS SOMEWHERE IN THE RANGE OF TWELVE YEARS.



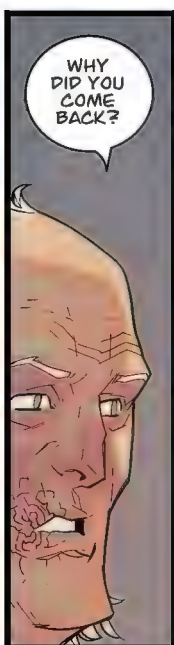
I'M TOLD YOU WANT TO JUST DIVE BACK INTO THINGS. YOU'RE READY TO WORK?



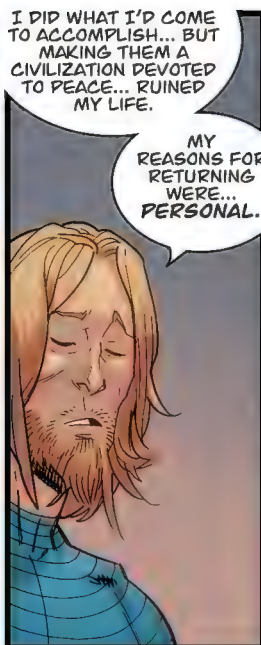
I'VE BEEN THE RULING MONARCH OF THE FLAXAN EMPIRE FOR THE LAST EIGHT YEARS. THE LAST THREE OF THOSE YEARS HAVE BEEN AN UNPRECEDENTED ERA OF PEACE.

SIMPLY PUT... I SAVED THEIR WORLD. THERE WAS NOTHING MORE FOR ME TO DO.

I'M ANXIOUS TO MAKE A DIFFERENCE AGAIN.



WHY DID YOU COME BACK?

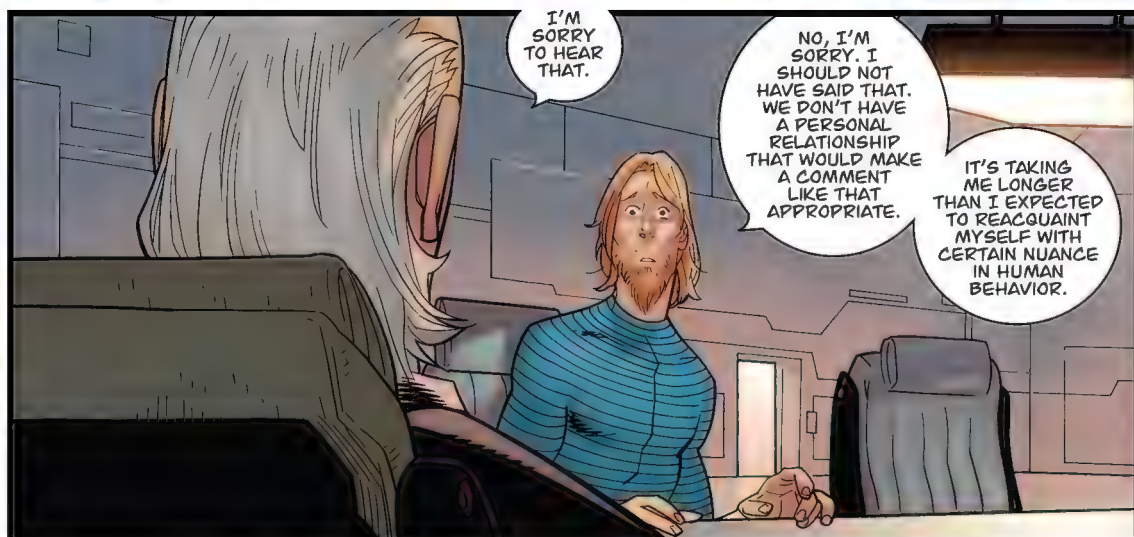


I DID WHAT I'D COME TO ACCOMPLISH... BUT MAKING THEM A CIVILIZATION DEVOTED TO PEACE... RUINED MY LIFE.

MY REASONS FOR RETURNING WERE... PERSONAL.



...



I'M SORRY TO HEAR THAT.

NO, I'M SORRY. I SHOULD NOT HAVE SAID THAT. WE DON'T HAVE A PERSONAL RELATIONSHIP THAT WOULD MAKE A COMMENT LIKE THAT APPROPRIATE.

IT'S TAKING ME LONGER THAN I EXPECTED TO REACQUAINT MYSELF WITH CERTAIN NUANCE IN HUMAN BEHAVIOR.



NO, I UNDERSTAND, COMPLETELY, IT'S OKAY... REALLY.

I DON'T WANT TO TAKE UP TOO MUCH OF YOUR TIME, REX. I BROUGHT YOU HERE TO OFFER YOU A JOB.



A JOB? AM I NO LONGER A MEMBER OF THE GUARDIANS OF THE GLOBE?



YOU ARE, BUT... I SEE SOMETHING **BIGGER** FOR YOU. THE CLIMATE FOR SUPER-HUMANS HAS CHANGED SOMEWHAT IN YOUR TIME AWAY.

PARIS, FRANCE AND LAS VEGAS, NEVADA, AS I'M SURE YOU'VE HEARD, HAVE BOTH BEEN DESTROYED. THE EVIL OF OUR WORLD HAS... ORGANIZED, THEY'VE BECOME MORE EFFICIENT... MORE DEADLY.

THEIR PLANS ARE BIGGER, MORE WELL THOUGHT OUT--THEY'RE, WELL... THEY'RE SUCCEEDING AT THINGS THEY USUALLY FAIL AT.

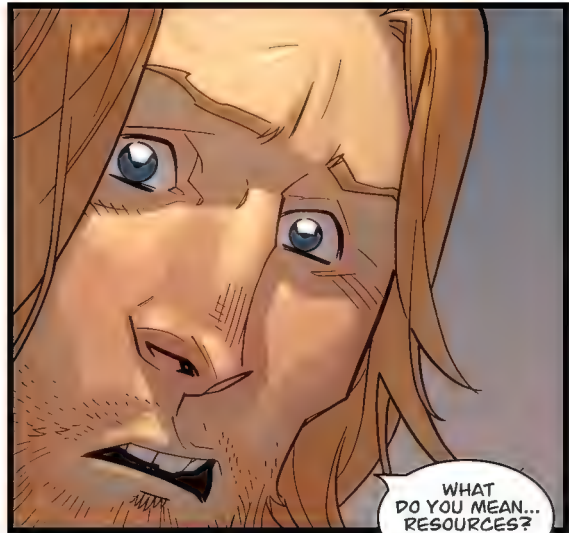
I UNDERSTAND WHAT YOU'RE SAYING. I CAN SEE HOW THIS WOULD CAUSE GREAT CONCERN FOR YOU.

WHAT DO YOU WANT ME TO DO?



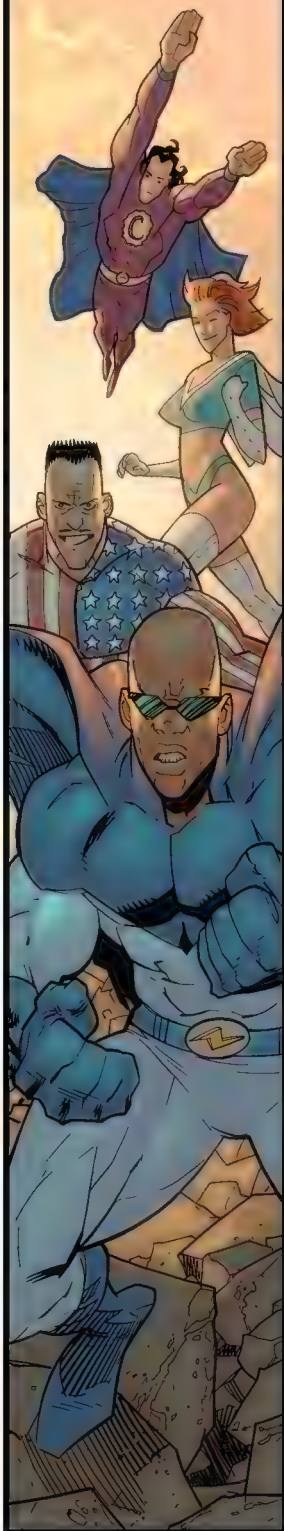
I'M FRUSTRATED, BECAUSE I LOOK AROUND AND I SEE THE RESOURCES NEEDED TO PUT AN END TO ALL THIS, BUT IT'S NOT COMING TOGETHER.

I THINK YOU'RE THE KEY TO CHANGING THAT.



WHAT DO YOU MEAN... RESOURCES?

I'VE GOT ORGANIZED
TEAMS OF HEROES
BY THE DOZENS.
I'VE GOT CAPES,
INCORPORATED.



THE ACTIONEERS.



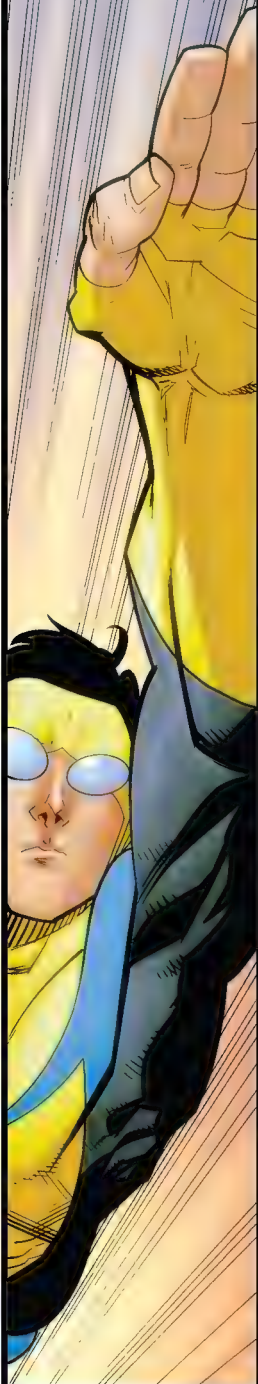
WOLF-MAN
AND
THE
WOLF C.O.R.P.S.



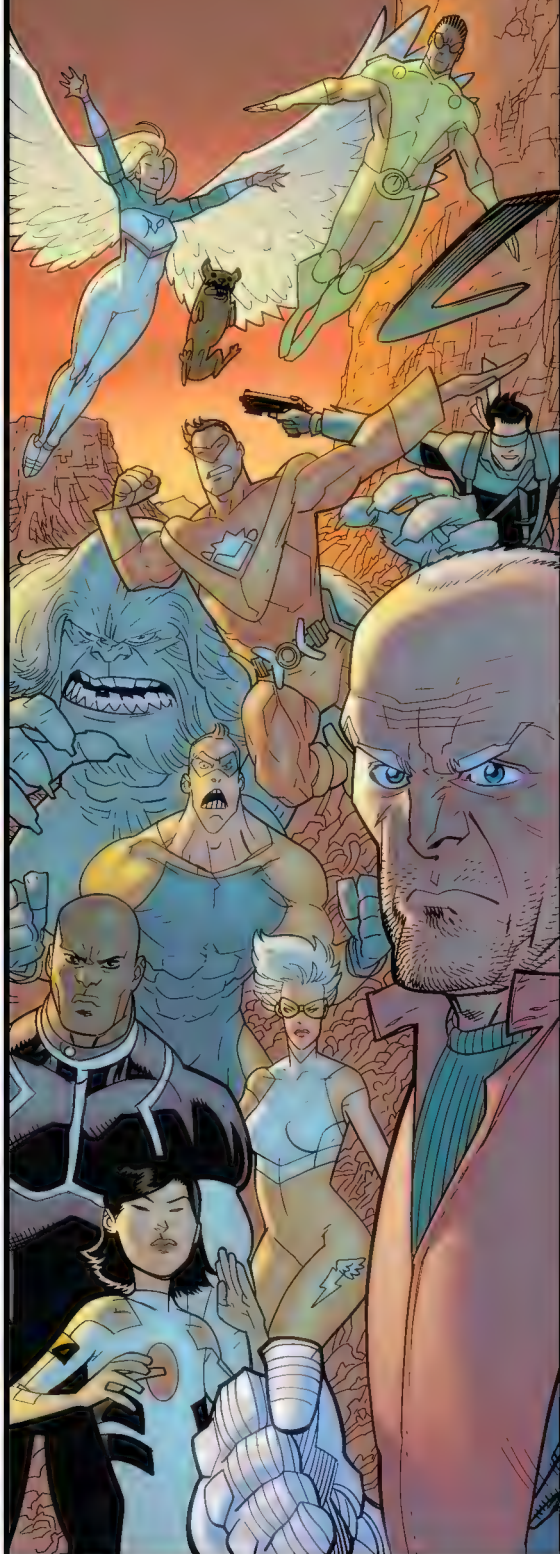
TECH JACKET.

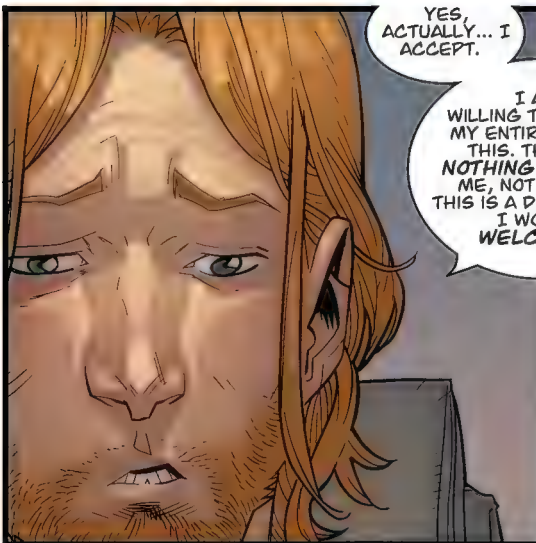
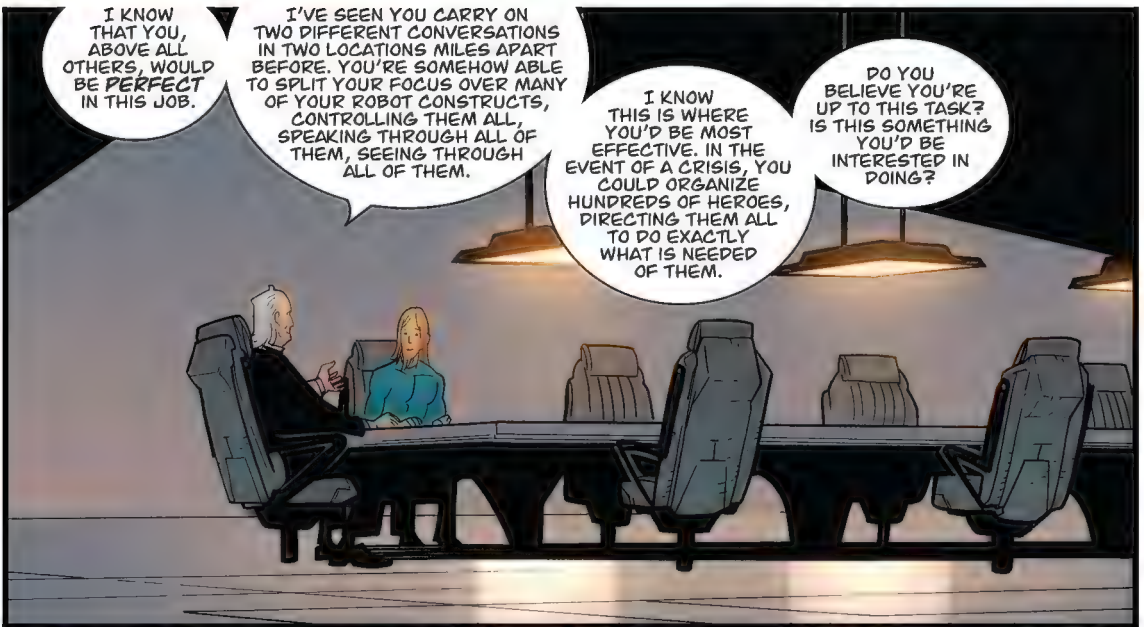
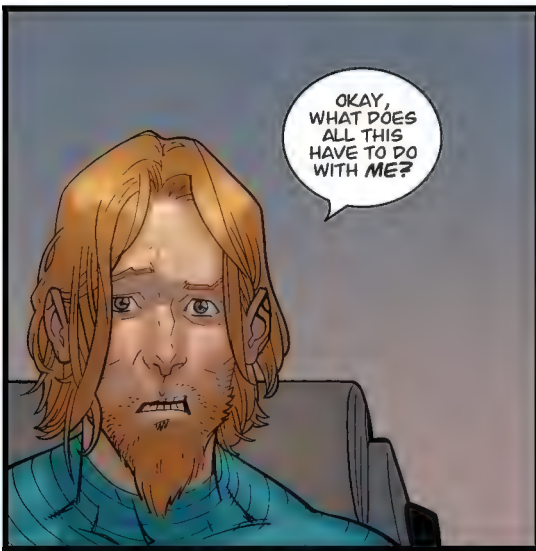


THOUGH HE DOESN'T
DIRECTLY ANSWER
TO ME, THERE'S ALSO
INVINCIBLE.

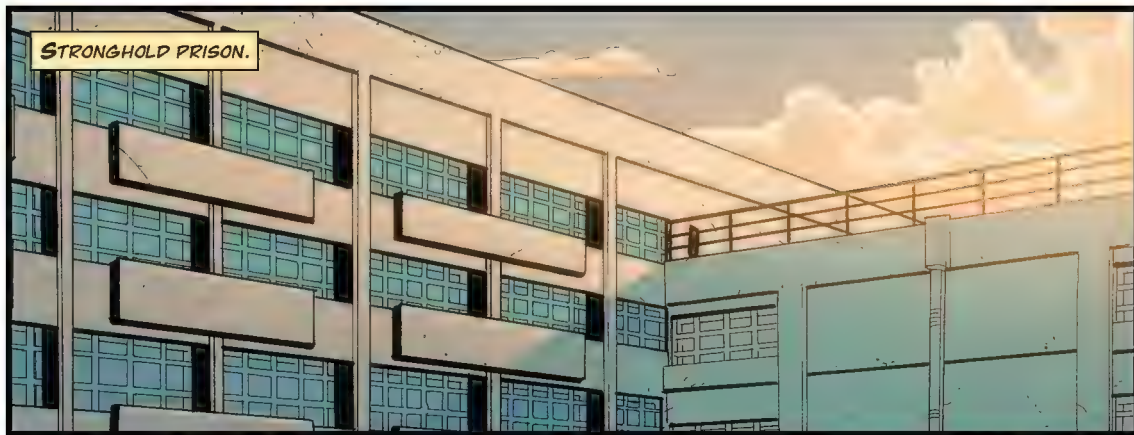


AND THEN THERE'S THE
NEWLY EXPANDED ROSTER
OF THE GUARDIANS
OF THE GLOBE.





STRONGHOLD PRISON.



THIS IS VERY UNUSUAL, INVINCIBLE. I DON'T KNOW EXACTLY WHAT YOU'VE GOT IN MIND, BUT I'M CONCERNED.

I'LL BE HONEST WITH YOU... AFTER WHAT HAPPENED IN LAS VEGAS UNDER YOUR WATCH, I WANTED TO REFUSE YOUR REQUEST.

WHY DIDN'T YOU?



LET'S JUST SAY YOU'VE GOT FRIENDS IN HIGH PLACES. FRIENDS THAT TRUST YOU.

MORE THAN I DO.

SPEAKING OF WHICH, I'D LIKE TO DISCUSS OUR CONTRACT WITH INVINCIBLE, INC. I DON'T KNOW THAT--



THAT'S NOT WHAT I'M HERE FOR. IF YOU'VE GOT PROBLEMS WITH THE BUSINESS SIDE OF THINGS, YOU KNOW EVE HANDLES THAT.

THIS IS THE CELL, SIR.

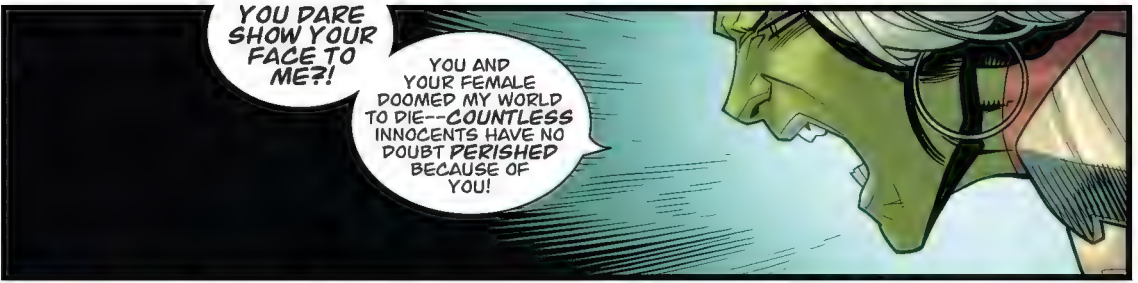


OPEN IT UP.

SHE'S ALL YOURS, KID.







YOU DARE
SHOW YOUR
FACE TO
ME?!

YOU AND
YOUR FEMALE
DOOMED MY WORLD
TO DIE--COUNTLESS
INNOCENTS HAVE NO
DOUBT PERISHED
BECAUSE OF
YOU!



I KNOW,
I'M
SORRY,
BUT--

I WILL
KILL
YOU!

THAT'S
WHY
I'M--

YOU GOT
LUCKY THE
FIRST TIME--
I WON'T
UNDER-
ESTIMATE
YOU!

I JUST
WANT--

YOUR
DEATH
WILL
BE--

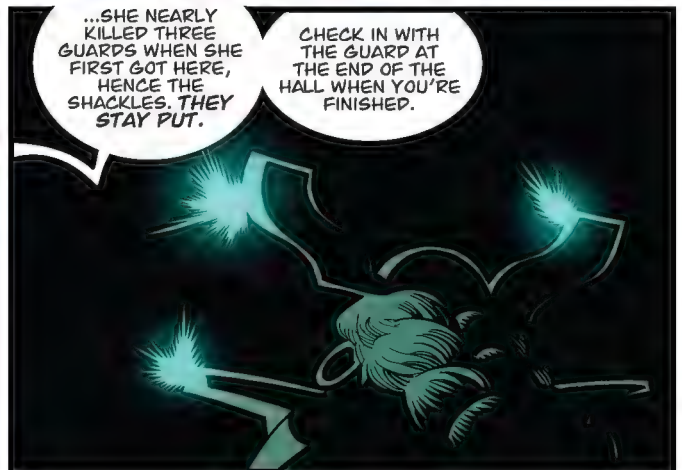


LET ME
SPEAK!!



CAN YOU UNSHACKLE HER,
AT LEAST A LITTLE BIT--THE
NECK, THE FEET, SOMETHING?
ALL HER POWER WAS IN
HER STAFF, SHE'S
HARMLESS
WITHOUT IT.

MAYBE
TO YOU...

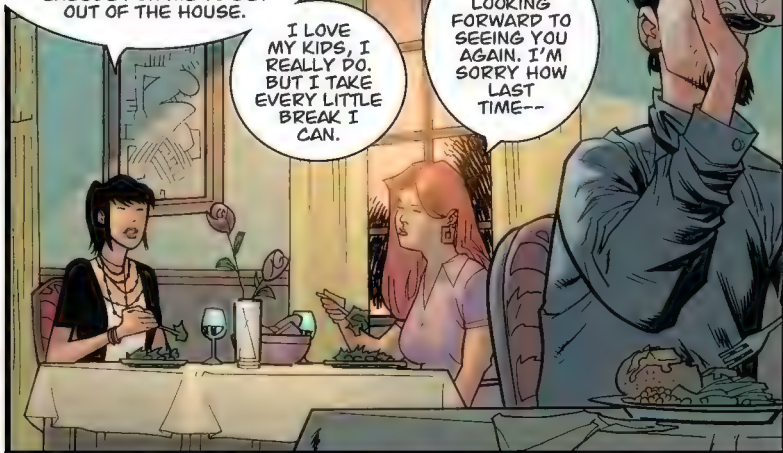


...SHE NEARLY
KILLED THREE
GUARDS WHEN SHE
FIRST GOT HERE,
HENCE THE
SHACKLES. THEY
STAY PUT.

CHECK IN WITH
THE GUARD AT
THE END OF THE
HALL WHEN YOU'RE
FINISHED.



THEIR FATHER IS PROBABLY LETTING THEM WATCH TV THE WHOLE TIME I'M GONE... WHICH THEY'LL LOVE. AND REALLY, THANKS FOR CALLING. ANY EXCUSE FOR ME TO GET OUT OF THE HOUSE.



I LOVE MY KIDS, I REALLY DO. BUT I TAKE EVERY LITTLE BREAK I CAN.

I WAS REALLY LOOKING FORWARD TO SEEING YOU AGAIN. I'M SORRY HOW LAST TIME--

OH, AND SALAD TIME! I DIDN'T EVEN NOTICE UNTIL NOW.

YOU LOSING THE WEIGHT FOR MARK NOW THAT HE'S BACK?

BRAVO, GIRL.



MY, GOD--NO. I'M EATING A SALAD BECAUSE I... LIKE SALAD.

AND I DIDN'T GAIN THE WEIGHT FROM OVER-EATING. IT WAS BECAUSE I JUST STOPPED... DOING... ANYTHING WHILE MARK WAS GONE.

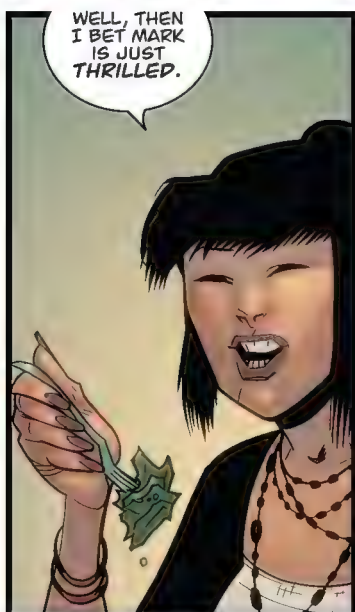


I NEVER REALIZED HOW MANY CALORIES USING MY POWERS BURNED. I DIDN'T REALLY DO MUCH OF ANYTHING SUPER-HERO-WISE WHILE MARK WAS GONE.

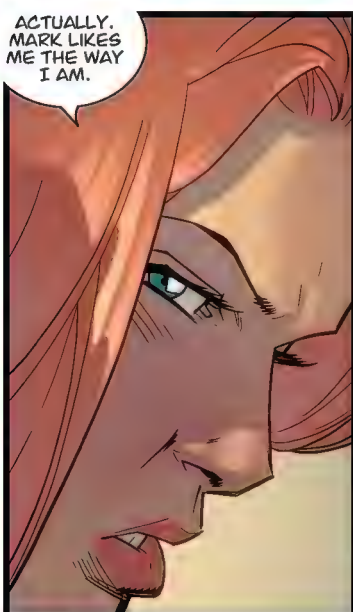
I'M ACTUALLY SLOWLY LOSING WEIGHT NOW THAT I'M BACK IN ACTION FROM TIME TO TIME.



WELL, THEN I BET MARK IS JUST THRILLED.



ACTUALLY. MARK LIKES ME THE WAY I AM.



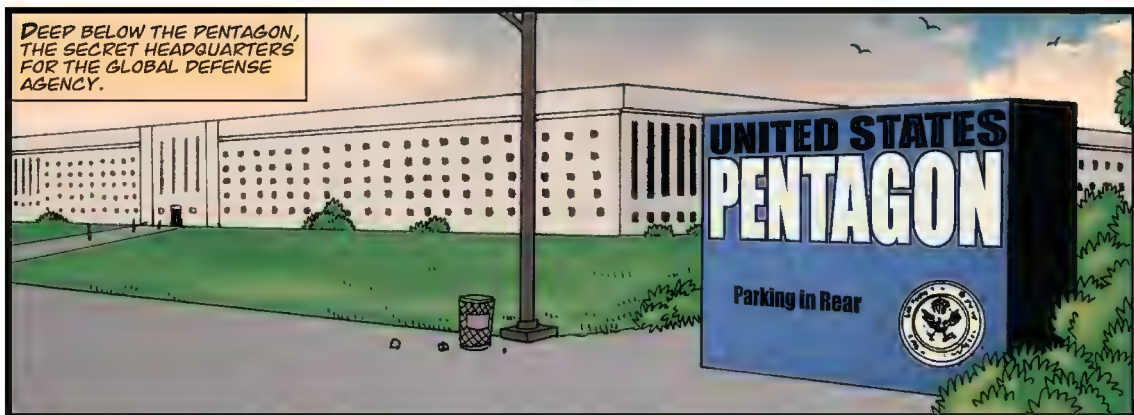
HE DOES?

REALLY?

WEIRD.



DEEP BELOW THE PENTAGON,
THE SECRET HEADQUARTERS
FOR THE GLOBAL DEFENSE
AGENCY.



DINOSAURUS
IS ALIVE!

HOW
DO WE
KNOW
THIS?

HE'S
HERE!



I'M DOING
WHAT YOU
SAY, DUDES.
C'MON.

YOU AIN'T
GOTTA BE
POINTING GUNS
AT ME. I
SURRENDERED.

JUST
KEEP
MOVING!

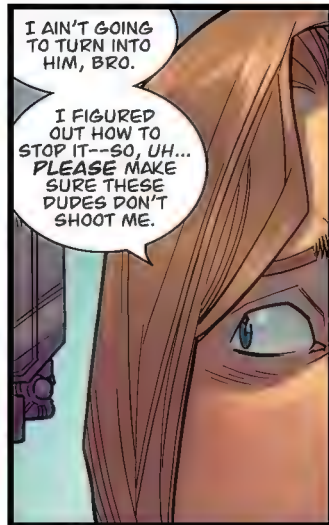


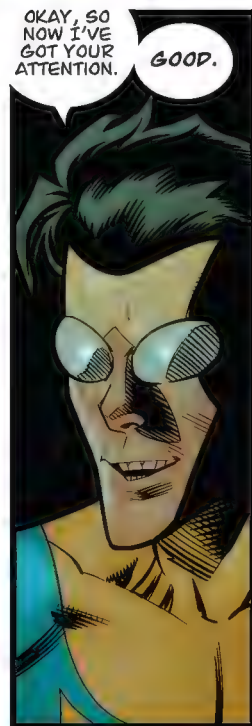
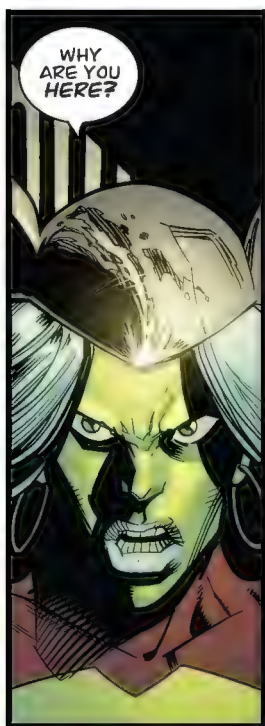
DAVID
ANDERS, WE
ARE GRATEFUL
YOU'VE TURNED
YOURSELF IN...
BUT YOU MUST
UNDERSTAND
WHY WE'D
TAKE SUCH
PRECAUTIONS...



I AIN'T GOING
TO TURN INTO
HIM, BRO.

I FIGURED
OUT HOW TO
STOP IT--SO, UH...
PLEASE MAKE
SURE THESE
DUDES DON'T
SHOOT ME.







OKAY, THE BOTTOM LINE IS THIS, I GET IT--YOUR WORLD IS IN DANGER, IT NEEDS POWER--YOU'VE GOT PEOPLE DYING. YOU'RE DESPERATE.

BUT YOU'RE HERE TO HELP PEOPLE, **YOUR** PEOPLE, BUT STILL-- IT COUNTS. WHAT I'M SAYING IS, YOU'RE NOT EVIL.

YOU'RE DESPERATE.



YOU JUST WANT TO SAVE YOUR PLANET... IF YOU COULD DO THAT WITHOUT HURTING ANYONE... YOU'D DO IT, RIGHT?



...

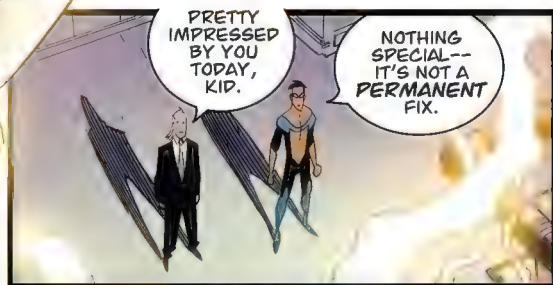


LET ME BE CLEAR. IF I COULD GET YOU SET FREE, AND ALSO SOMEHOW HELP YOU-- SO THAT YOU COULD GO BACK TO YOUR HOME WORLD...

WOULD YOU COOPERATE WITH ME, WITHOUT FIGHTING ME OR TRYING TO KILL ME... OR ANYONE ON THIS PLANET?

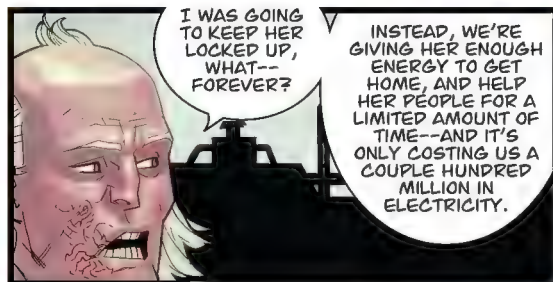


YES.



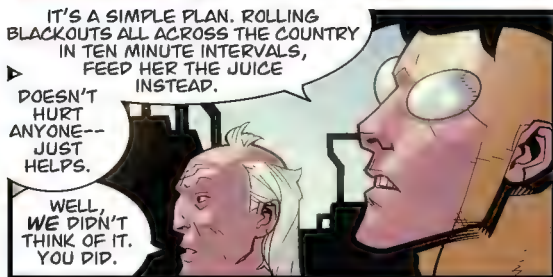
PRETTY IMPRESSED BY YOU TODAY, KID.

NOTHING SPECIAL-- IT'S NOT A PERMANENT FIX.



I WAS GOING TO KEEP HER LOCKED UP, WHAT-- FOREVER?

INSTEAD, WE'RE GIVING HER ENOUGH ENERGY TO GET HOME, AND HELP HER PEOPLE FOR A LIMITED AMOUNT OF TIME--AND IT'S ONLY COSTING US A COUPLE HUNDRED MILLION IN ELECTRICITY.



IT'S A SIMPLE PLAN. ROLLING BLACKOUTS ALL ACROSS THE COUNTRY IN TEN MINUTE INTERVALS, FEED HER THE JUICE INSTEAD.

DOESN'T HURT ANYONE-- JUST HELPS.

WELL, WE DIDN'T THINK OF IT. YOU DID.



YOUR PEOPLE WERE SCARED OF HER. THAT'S A PROBLEM.

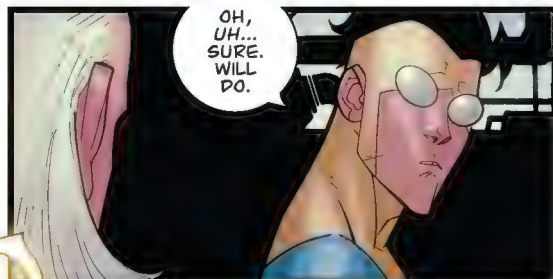
ANYWAY, LOOKS LIKE SHE'S ALMOST DONE, I'LL NEED TO ESCORT HER TO THE NEXT POWER STATION.



SURE, LISTEN. COME BY THE PENTAGON AFTER YOU'RE DONE WITH HER... I'D LIKE TO TALK TO YOU.

...

NOTHING SERIOUS.



OH, UH... SURE. WILL DO.



THANK
YOU.



NO
PROBLEM.

I HOPE IT'S ENOUGH
TO TIDE YOUR PLANET
OVER LONG ENOUGH TO
FIND A PERMANENT
SOLUTION.

I'M SORRY
WE KEPT YOU
PRISONER
FOR SO
LONG.

I
ATTACKED
YOU. I WAS
WRONG TO
TRY AND
OVERPOWER
YOU AND
TAKE WHAT I
NEEDED.



YOU
WERE RIGHT,
I WAS
DESPERATE.

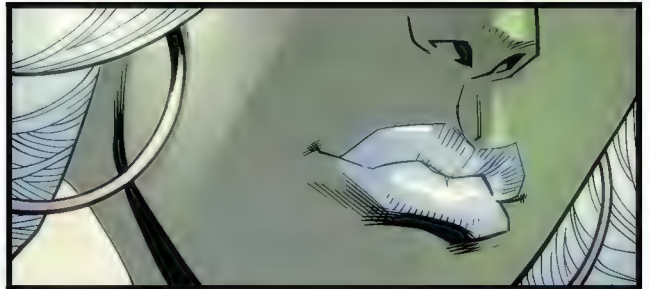
YOU ARE
A GREAT MAN
TO FORGIVE
MY ACTIONS.



UH...
THANKS.

JUST, UH...
LET US DO WHAT
WE CAN. DON'T,
Y'KNOW... TRY
TO ATTACK AGAIN
LATER.

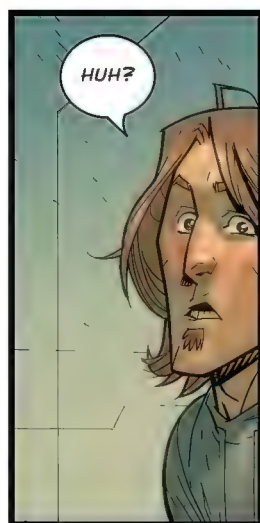
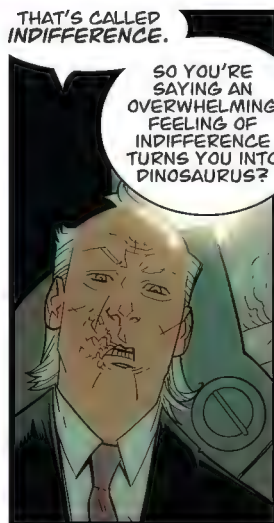
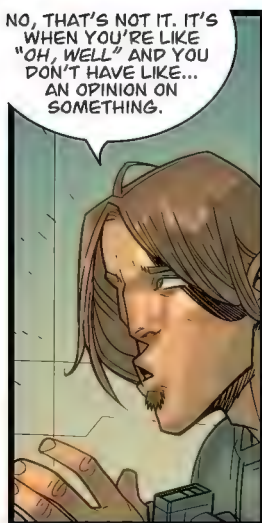
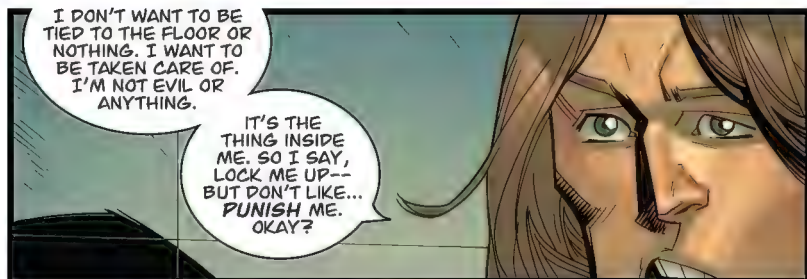
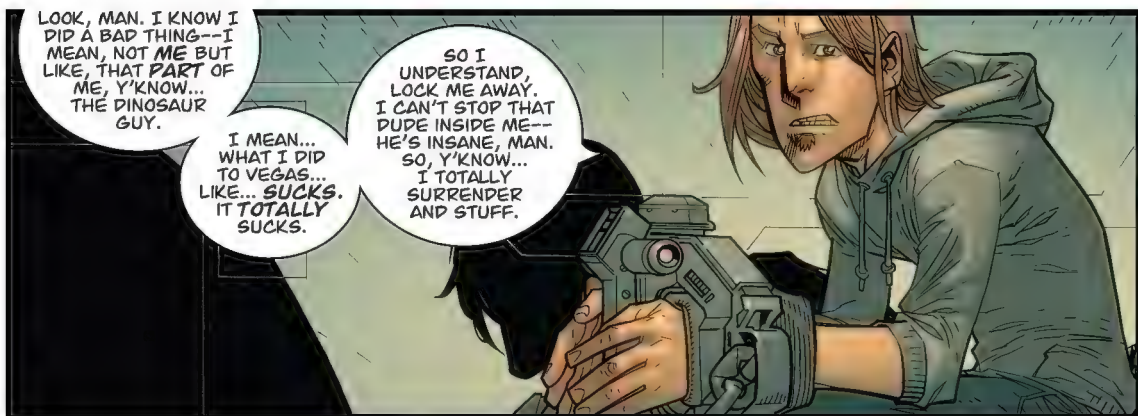
THAT
WOULD
MAKE
ME LOOK
BAD.



I HOPE
TO ONE DAY
REPAY YOUR
KINDNESS.

OKAY,
COOL.

THAT
SMILE
HAD ME
WORRIED
FOR A
MINUTE.



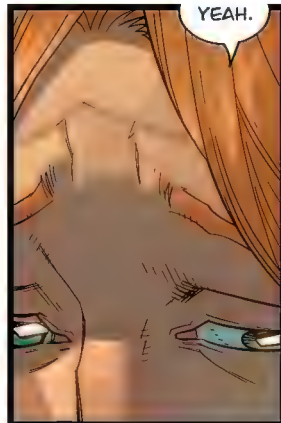
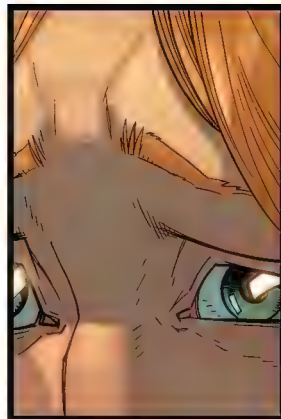
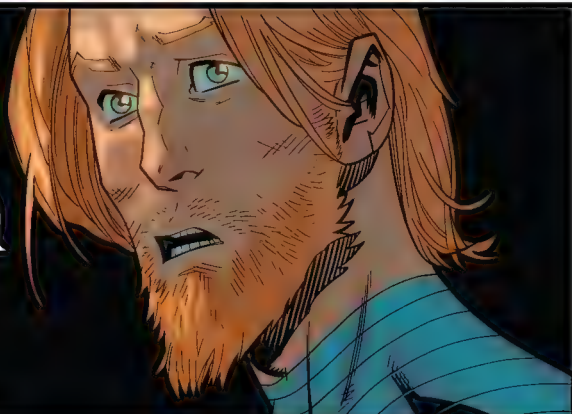
THE GUARDIANS OF THE
GLOBE CENTRAL BASE, UTAH.

I ACCEPTED, OF COURSE.
IT REALLY IS A GOOD IDEA.
IT'S DEFINITELY HOW I'D
BE MOST USEFUL. IT'S
REALLY A GLORIFIED
DISPATCHER, BUT MY
DRONES COULD BE
ASSISTING IN
BATTLE AS
WELL.

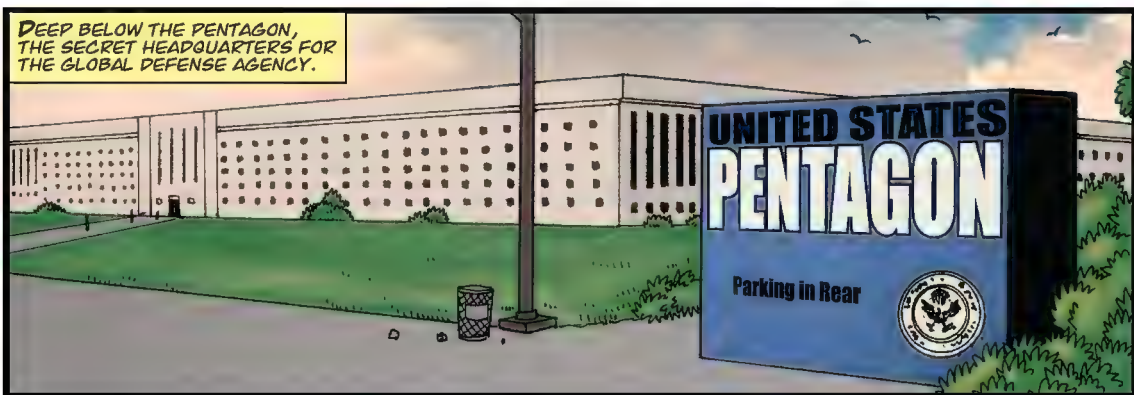
I THINK IT
WILL GIVE ME
PURPOSE.

SOMETHING
I REALLY MISSED
WHEN WE WERE
RULING
THE FLAXAN
EMPIRE.

ARE YOU...
ADJUSTING
WELL?



DEEP BELOW THE PENTAGON,
THE SECRET HEADQUARTERS FOR
THE GLOBAL DEFENSE AGENCY.



MEETING IN
THE WHITE
ROOM? THIS
IS NEVER
A GOOD
SIGN.



I THINK
WE'RE PAST
ALL THAT.
RELAX, I
JUST WANT
TO TALK.

I BELIEVE
YOU'VE BEEN
BROUGHT UP TO
SPEED ON THE
VARIOUS THINGS THAT
HAPPENED WHILE
YOU WERE GONE... AND
YOU'VE WITNESSED
FIRST HAND JUST HOW
BAD THINGS ARE
OUT THERE.

YEAH. IT WAS ALWAYS
DANGEROUS... BUT... I
COULD STAND TO HAVE
A FEW MORE BANK
ROBBERS AND A LOT
LESS DESTROYED
CITIES...

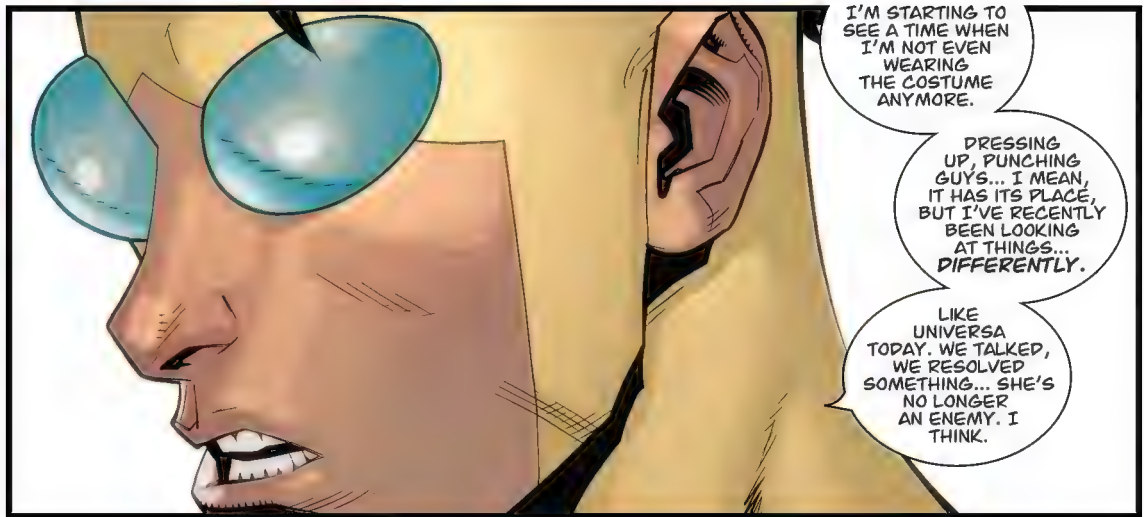
NOT TO
MAKE
LIGHT OF
THINGS...

WHAT I'M GETTING AT,
IS... I'D JUST LIKE TO
KNOW IF I CAN COUNT
ON YOU... IF I
NEED YOU.

WE'VE
HAD OUR
DIFFERENCES IN
THE PAST, BUT
YOU KNOW I
WOULDN'T TURN
AWAY FROM A
SITUATION WHERE
I WAS
NEEDED.

I'M NOT
WEARING AN
EARPiece ANY
TIME SOON,
THOUGH...
IN FACT,
I'VE BEEN
THINKING...





I'M STARTING TO SEE A TIME WHEN I'M NOT EVEN WEARING THE COSTUME ANYMORE.

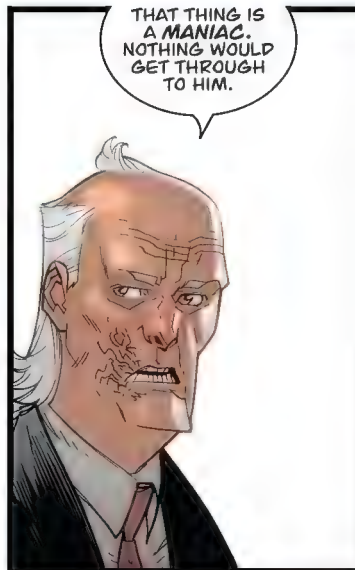
DRESSING UP, PUNCHING GUYS... I MEAN, IT HAS ITS PLACE, BUT I'VE RECENTLY BEEN LOOKING AT THINGS... DIFFERENTLY.

LIKE UNIVERSA TODAY. WE TALKED, WE RESOLVED SOMETHING... SHE'S NO LONGER AN ENEMY. I THINK.



THAT SEEMS SO MUCH **SMARTER** THAN... FIGHTING.

MAYBE IF I'D TRIED A DIFFERENT APPROACH WITH DINOSAURUS...



THAT THING IS A **MANIAC**. NOTHING WOULD GET THROUGH TO HIM.

HOW CAN YOU BE SO CERTAIN? EVERYONE **WANTS** SOMETHING... AND THESE GUYS ARE JUST TRYING TO GET IT.

I DON'T AGREE WITH HIS METHODS, BUT FROM WHAT HE SAYS, DINOSAURUS THINKS HE'S ACTUALLY **HELPING** HUMANITY.

I THINK THERE MIGHT BE SOMETHING TO THAT...



THAT'S AN ARGUMENT FOR ANOTHER TIME, THEN.

SO, TO WRAP UP... I CAN COUNT ON YOU IF I NEED YOU?



OF COURSE... YES.



GOOD. NOW THAT WE'RE ON SPEAKING TERMS AGAIN, I FIGURE IT'S BEST TO JUST **TELL** YOU THINGS UP FRONT THAT I FEEL MIGHT UPSET YOU.

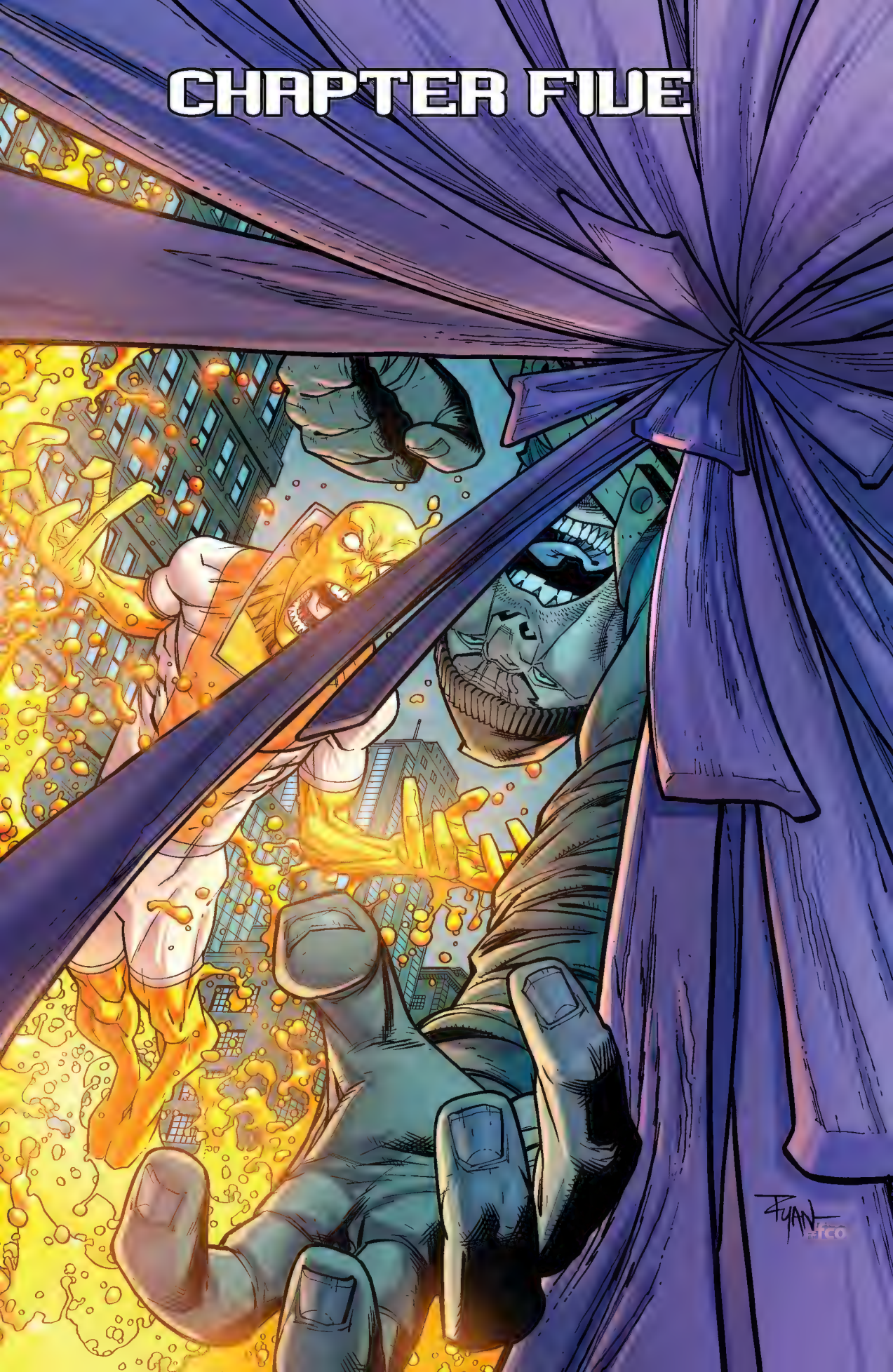
DON'T BE ALARMED, BUT...



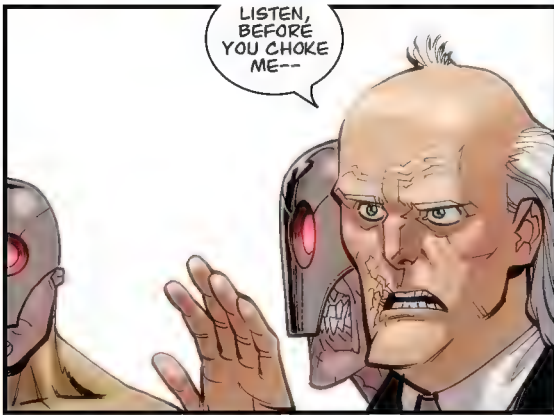
THERE
ARE THINGS
I'VE BEEN
KEEPING
FROM
YOU...

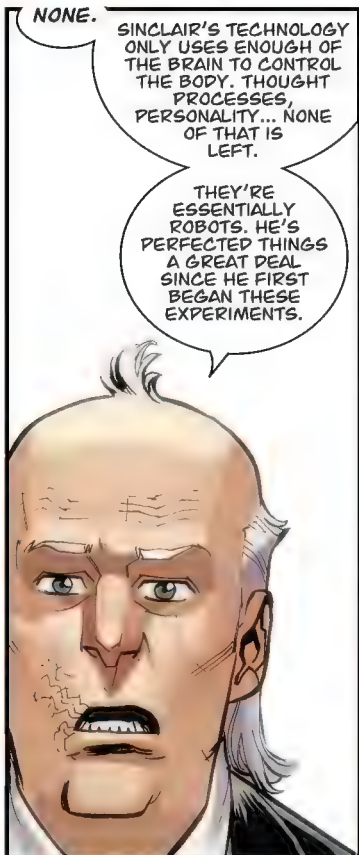


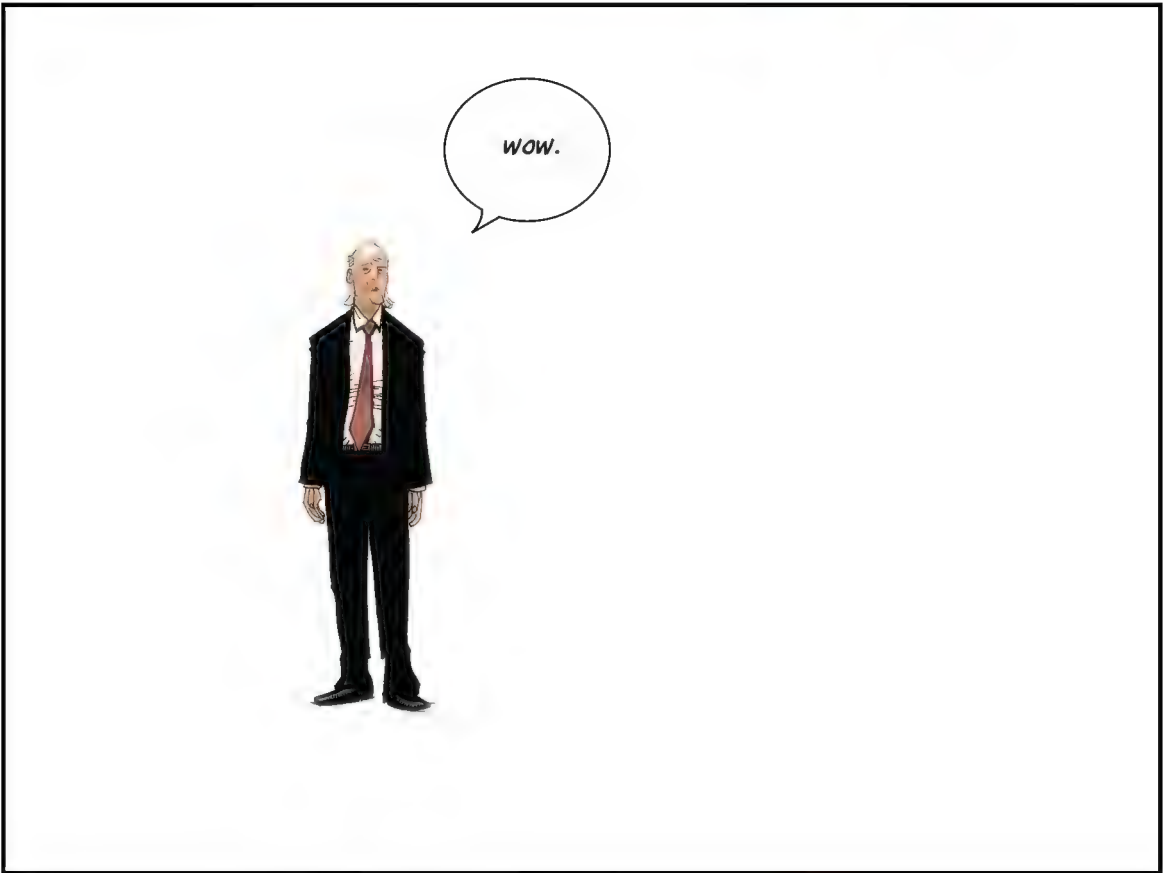
CHAPTER FIVE



FYAN
wco







THE SECRET HEADQUARTERS OF CRIMINAL MASTERMIND, TITAN.

WE'VE TRIED EVERYTHING, BOSS.

WE'VE TRIED TO GO LEGIT... THAT DIDN'T WORK, WE JUST COULDN'T MAKE ENDS MEET.

WE TRIED TO GO BACK TO CRIME ON OUR OWN--WE COULDN'T HACK IT.

WORKING FOR MACHINE HEAD WAS NO GREAT SHAKES... BUT YOU WERE ONE OF US--A THUG, YOU KNOW WHAT IT'S LIKE...

WORKING FOR YOU, IT'S BEEN EASIER. AND WE KNOW WE HAVEN'T BEEN THE MOST USEFUL PARTS OF YOUR ORGANIZATION...

IF YOU'LL ALLOW ME TO INTERRUPT YOUR RAMBLE...

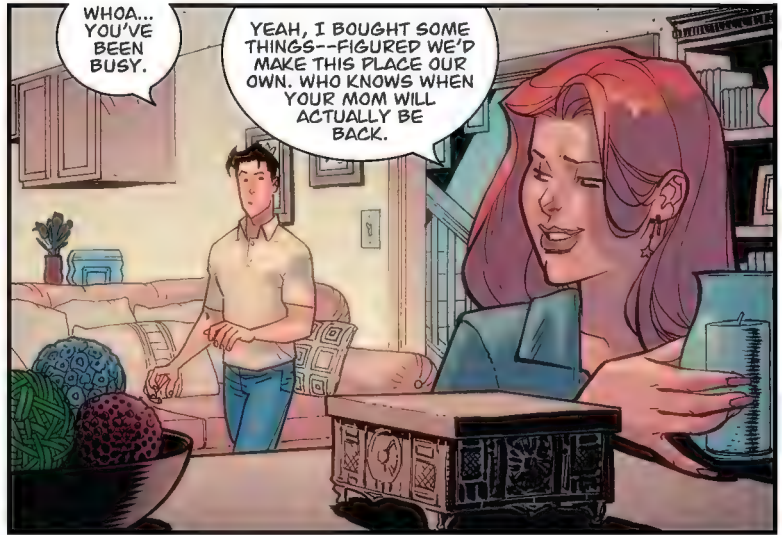
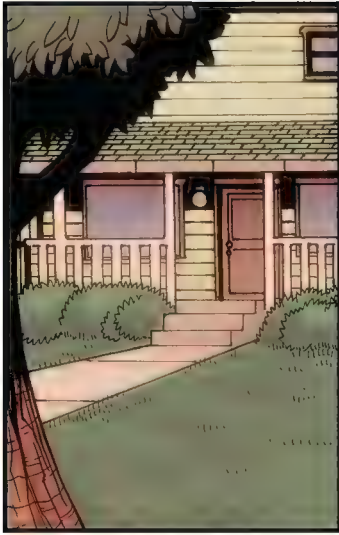
YOU WISH TO PROVE YOUR WORTH. UNDERSTANDABLE. ADMIRABLE. THE TRUTH OF THE MATTER IS THAT I'M STILL TRYING TO REBUILD MY ORGANIZATION IN THE WAKE OF THE RECENT DEBACLE WITH THE ORDER.*

IT'S BROUGHT DOWN A LOT OF HEAT ON ME AND THIS ORGANIZATION.

*SEE GUARDING THE GLOBE, VOLUME I.

SO WHAT I'M SAYING IS, THERE ARE MANY WAYS YOU COULD PROVE VERY VALUABLE TO ME.

WERE YOU WILLING TO TAKE THINGS TO THE NEXT LEVEL... IN FACT, I THINK I KNOW JUST THE TASK WITH WHICH TO PROVE YOURSELVES.





AND YOU'VE BEEN GONE FOR TWELVE YEARS FROM YOUR PERSPECTIVE?

YOU RULED THE FLAXAN EMPIRE FOR A TIME--THAT'S IMPRESSIVE.

YOUR TIME AWAY HAS CERTAINLY, UM... BENEFITED YOU...

THAT'S RIGHT, BOYS. TWELVE YEARS AWAY... SOME OF YOU I BARELY REMEMBER, SOME OF YOU I DON'T REMEMBER...

...AND TAKE NOTE--THE WOMAN YOU SEE BEFORE YOU HAS A BRAIN THAT'S OVER FORTY YEARS OLD.

THERE ARE PARTS OF YOUR CLOTHES WHERE THERE ARE NO CLOTHES AND WE CAN SEE YOUR SKIN INSTEAD.

UGH. DO THEY STILL MAKE CIGARETTES?

AND

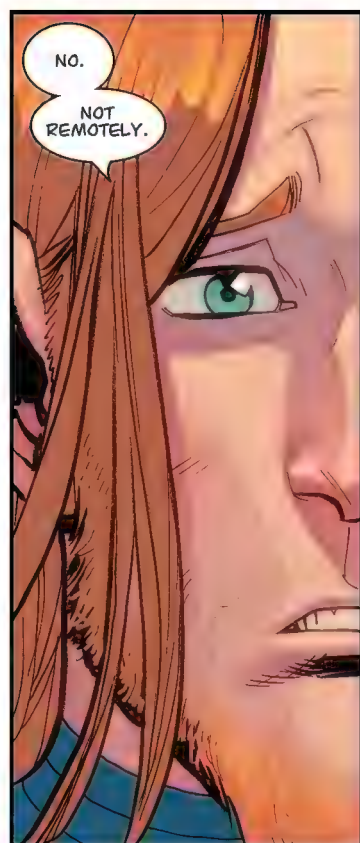
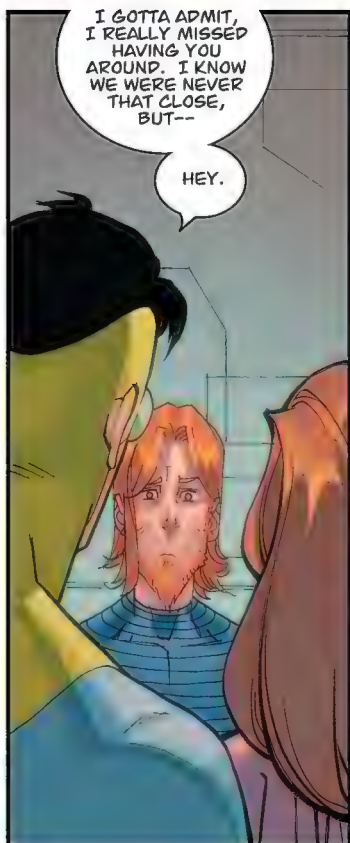
SORRY, REX. I'M GOING AFTER MY FIANCEE BEFORE HE TACKLES HER.

THAT'LL GET AT LEAST ONE GUY TO GIVE HER SOME SPACE...

HEY, MAN!

BYE!

IT'S GOOD TO HAVE YOU BACK.





I'M GOING TO GO STAKE OUT THEIR PLACE--IT'S LIKE A FORTRESS. FOR THE RECORD, I'M NOT COMFORTABLE WITH THIS, TITAN REALLY IS ASKING FOR THE MOON... WHY WOULD HE SEND JUST US?

TO AVOID RETALIATION. HE WANTS US TO LOOK LIKE ROGUE AGENTS-- LIKE HE'S NOT BEHIND IT. HE DOESN'T THINK WE'LL PULL IT OFF.

BUT WE WILL... I'D COME WITH YOU, BUT I REALLY NEED TO SEPARATE-- I'VE BEEN BONDED TOO LONG.

I GET IT, MAN. AT LEAST... CLEAN UP A LITTLE OR SOMETHING WHILE I'M OUT.



HE'S GONE. YEAH. HE KNOWS YOU'RE ALIVE, THOUGH. WE DON'T KEEP SECRETS FROM EACH OTHER.

I DON'T KNOW WHY YOU WON'T TALK TO ME IN FRONT OF HIM--I KNOW YOU DON'T LIKE HIM, BUT IT'S NOT LIKE HE'S GOING TO HEAR YOU.

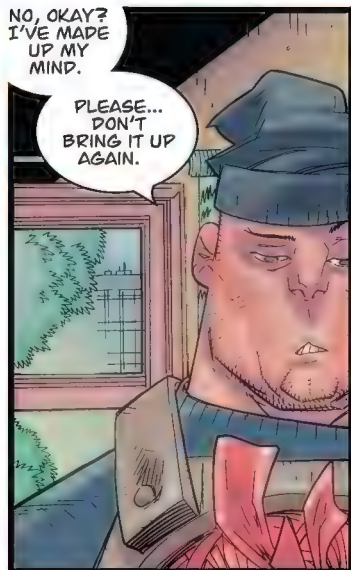
I KNOW... BUT THAT'S NOT WHAT I WANT. I KNOW A PERMANENT BOND WOULD MAKE ME STRONGER-- MAYBE EVEN HELP US PULL THIS OFF, BUT YOU'VE SAID IT WOULD... **TRANSFORM ME.**

I TRUST YOU... WE'VE BEEN TOGETHER FOR YEARS... BUT I JUST DON'T LIKE THE SOUND OF THAT.



NO, OKAY? I'VE MADE UP MY MIND.

PLEASE... DON'T BRING IT UP AGAIN.



OH, CALM DOWN.

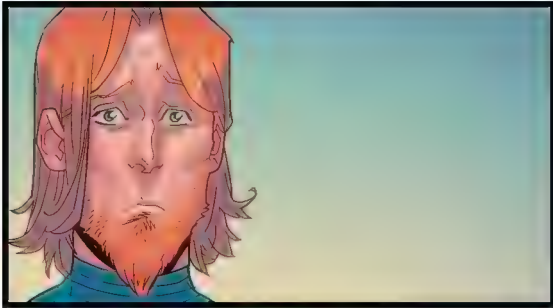
IT'S OKAY-- IT'LL JUST BE FOR A LITTLE WHILE.



JUST LEAVE IT TO ME, GIRL. I'M THE GET REACQUAINTED EXPERT. I'LL TAKE YOU UNDER MY WING. GET YOU UP TO SPEED.

YOU KNOW, OUR MINDS AREN'T THAT FAR APART IN AGE... I'M ALMOST FORTY, MYSELF. WE'VE PROBABLY GOT A LOT IN COMMON.

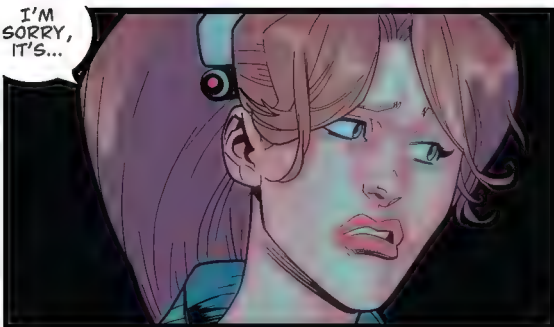
DO TELL...



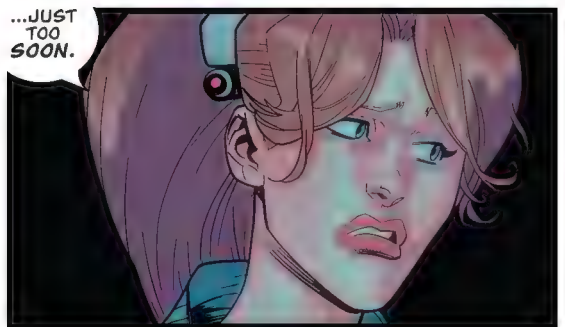
SO THERE'S REALLY NOTHING GOING ON BETWEEN YOU AND ROBOT--ER, REX? YOU KIDS KIND OF HAD SOME KIND OF PUPPY LOVE THING GOING ON BEFORE YOU WENT AWAY AND GREW UP.

NO, WE... THAT'S OVER. BUT... DID YOU THINK WE WERE SOMEHOW... YIKES. I'M COMPLETELY OUT OF SYNC WITH HUMAN BEHAVIOR. I'M SORRY THAT I DIDN'T PICK UP ON IT SOONER.

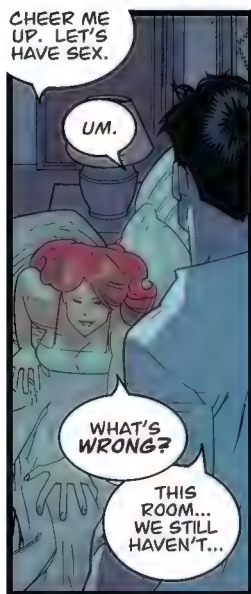
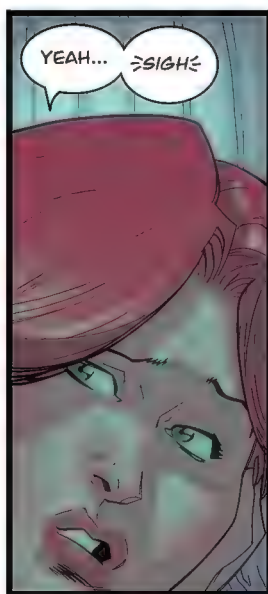
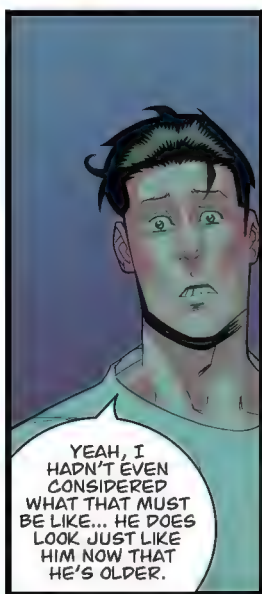
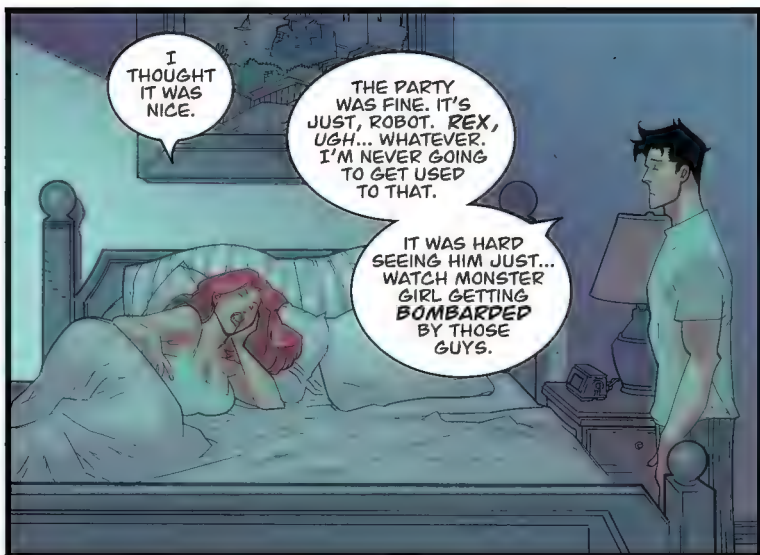
THERE'S NOTHING HAPPENING HERE BETWEEN US...



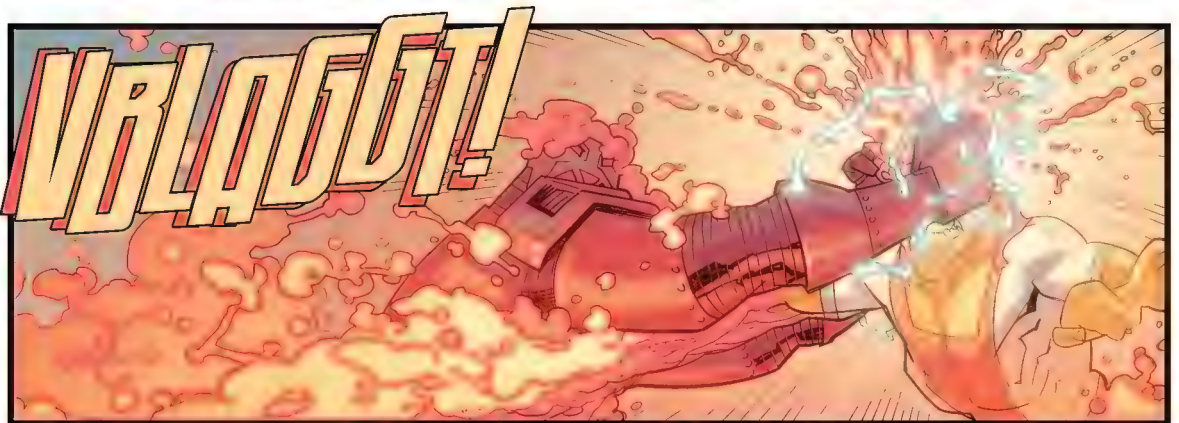
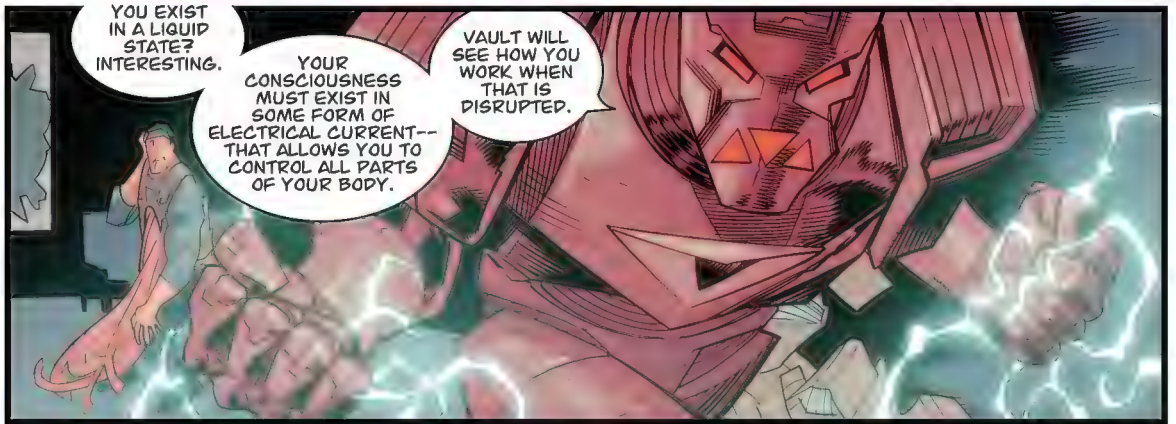
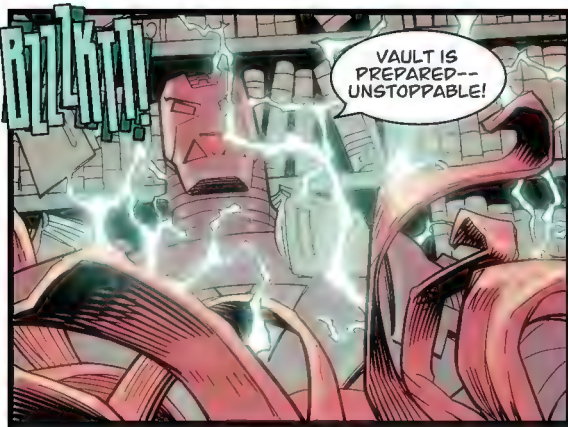
I'M SORRY, IT'S...

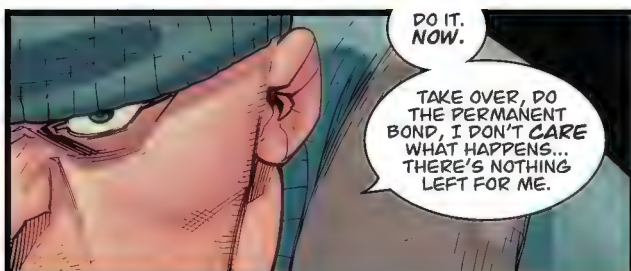


...JUST TOO SOON.









WAIT--
WHAT IS
THIS?!
HELLO?!

WHERE
AM I?
ARE YOU
HERE?

DID WE
BOND? DID
YOU TAKE
OVER?
DID...

DID I DIE,
TOO?

JAMES...
HOW COULD
I LET--

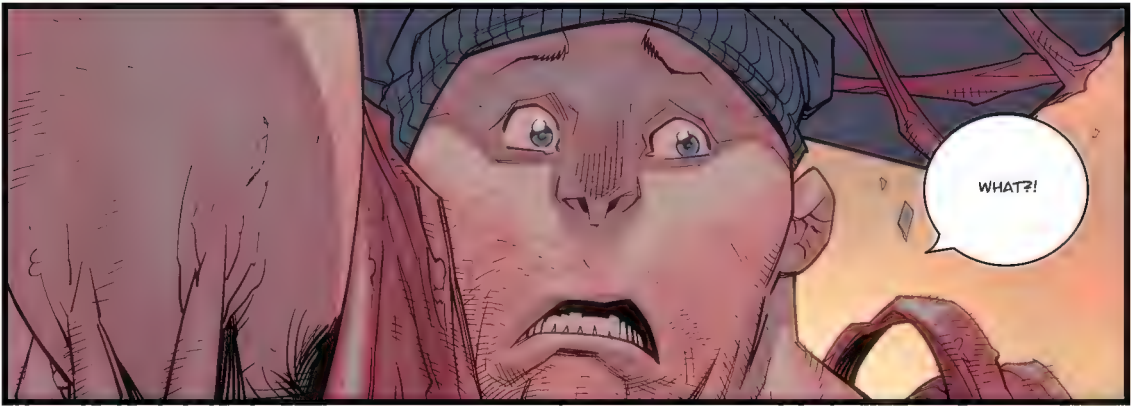
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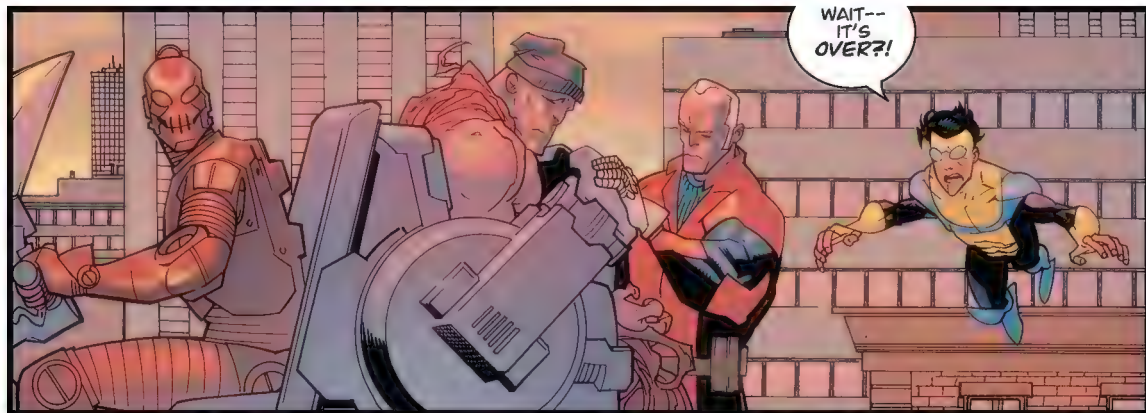
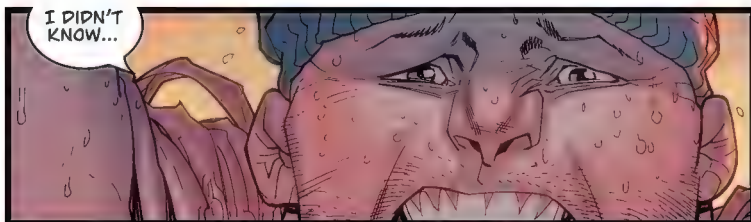
IF YOU
CAN HEAR
ME--I DON'T
WANT THIS! I
TAKE IT BACK! I
DON'T WANT
YOU TO TAKE
OVER.

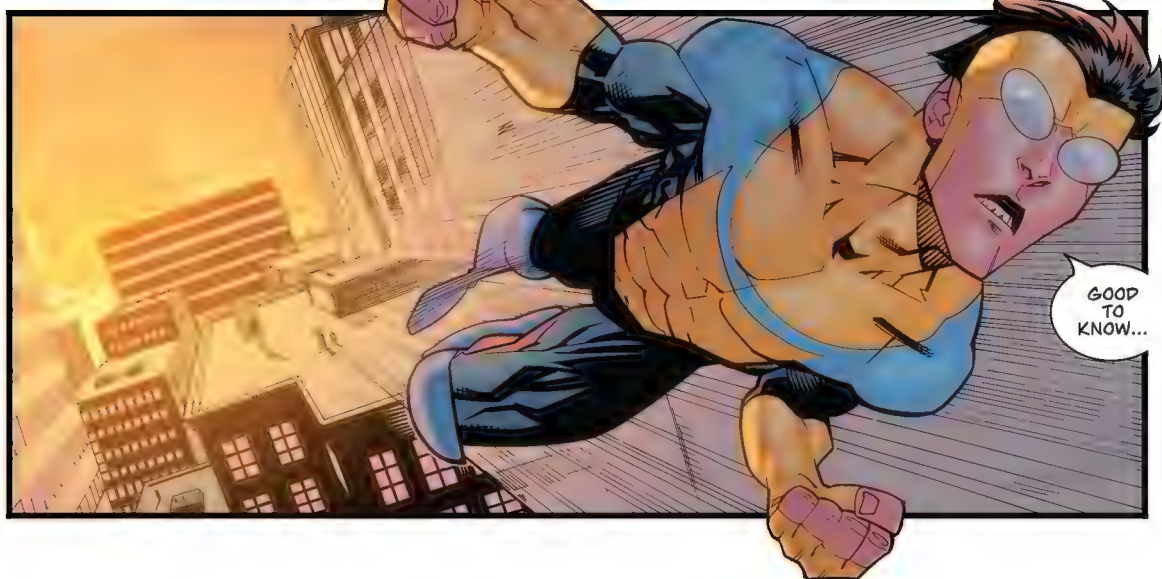
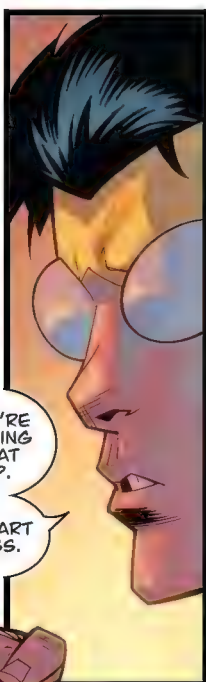
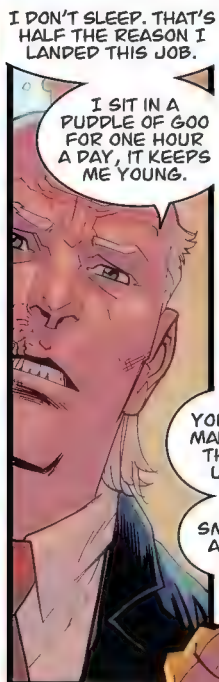
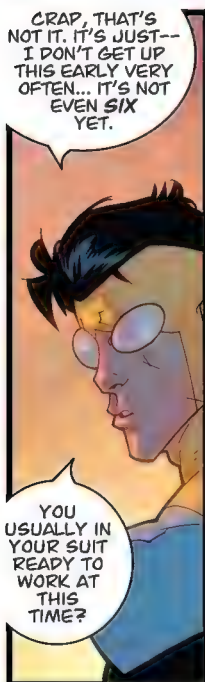
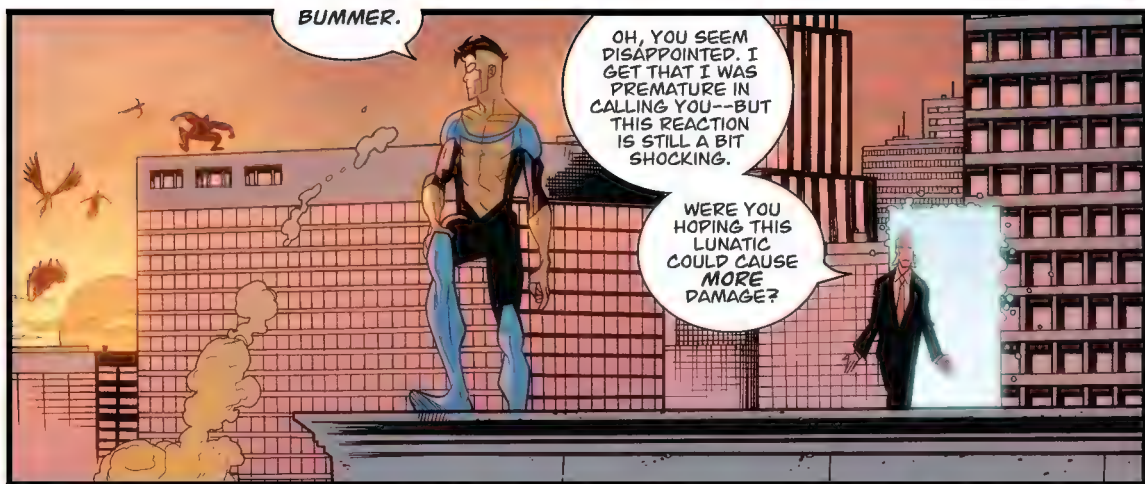
HELLO?!
I'M
SERIOUS!!

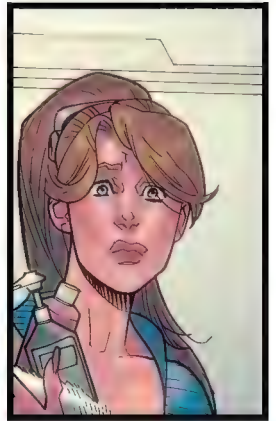
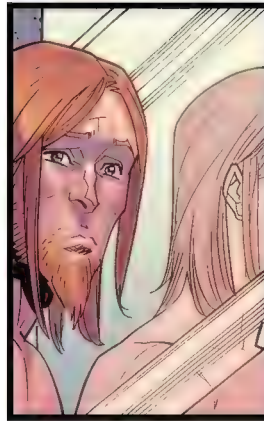
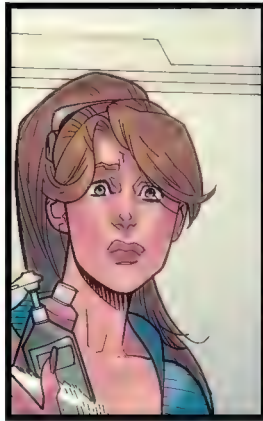
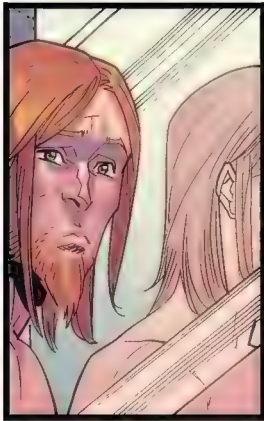
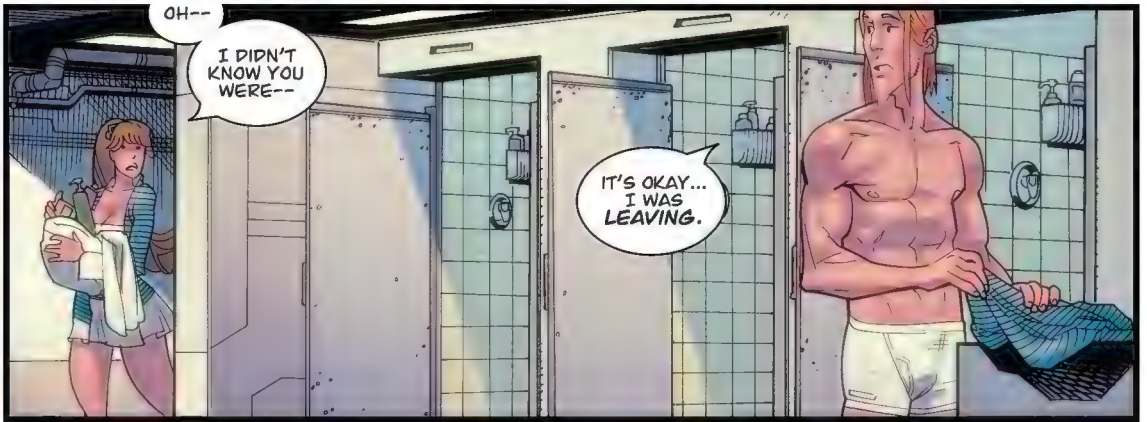
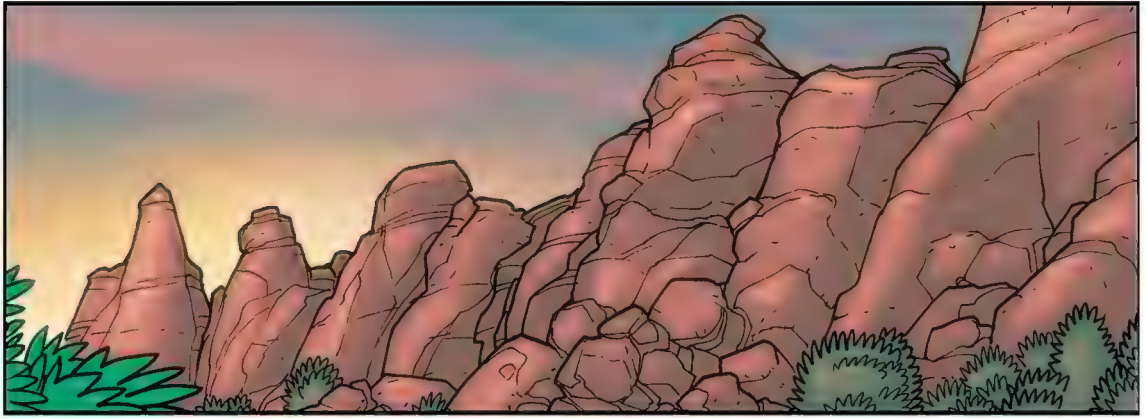
IF YOU'RE
OUT THERE--
IF YOU CAN HEAR
ME! I WANT MY
BODY BACK! I
DEMAND YOU
GIVE IT TO
ME!

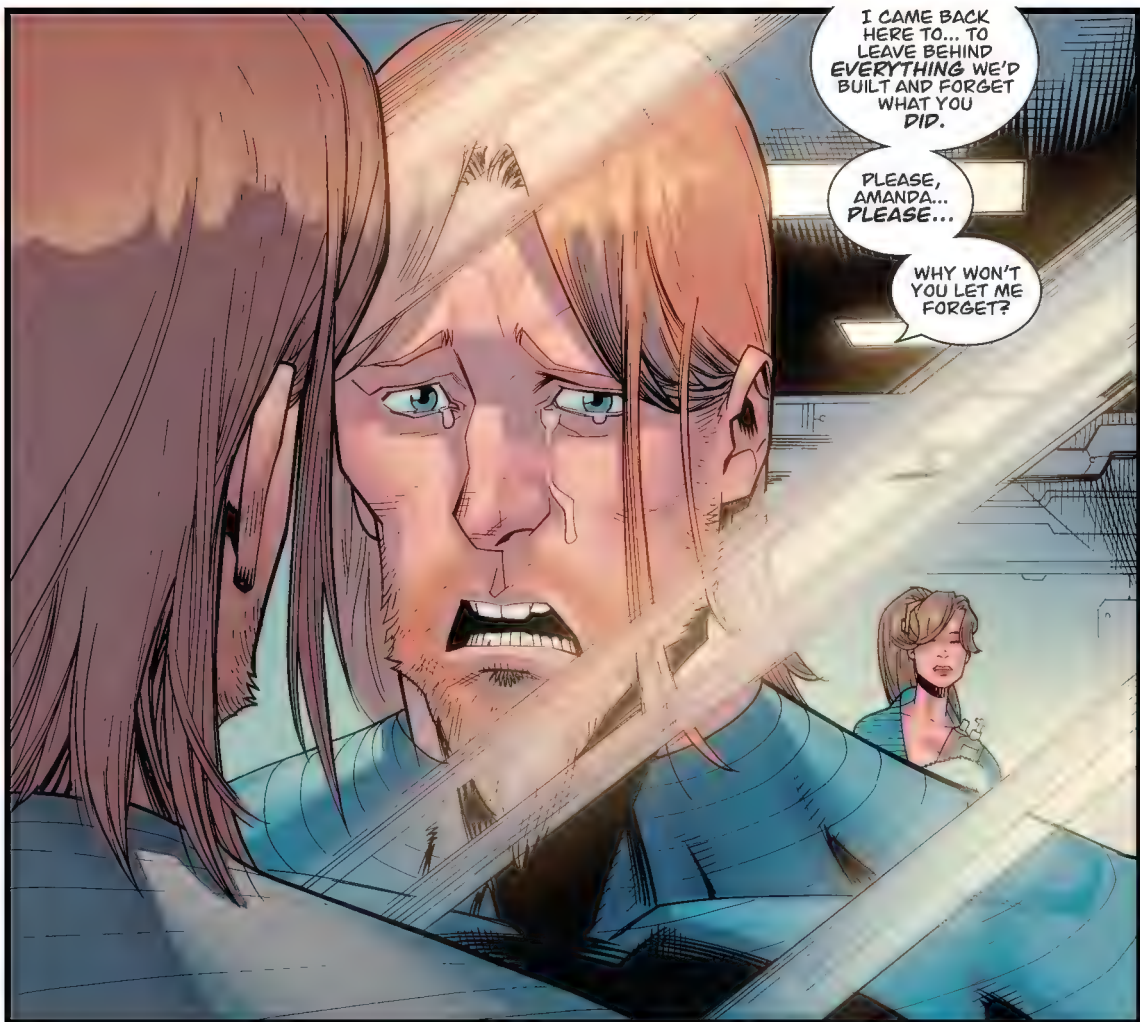
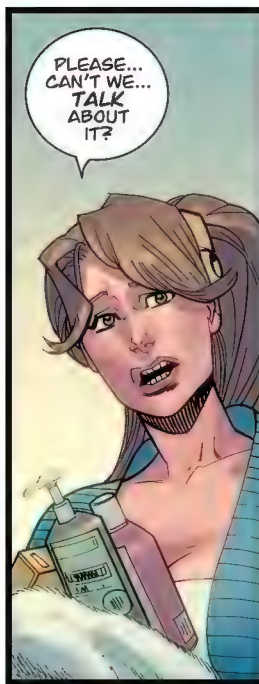
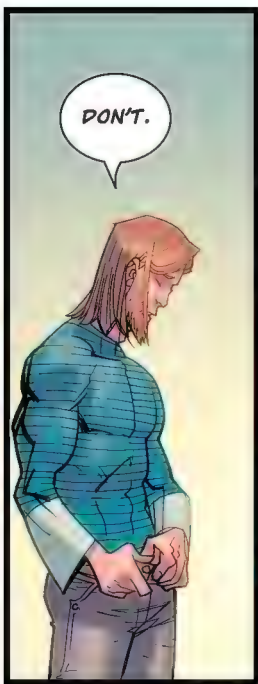
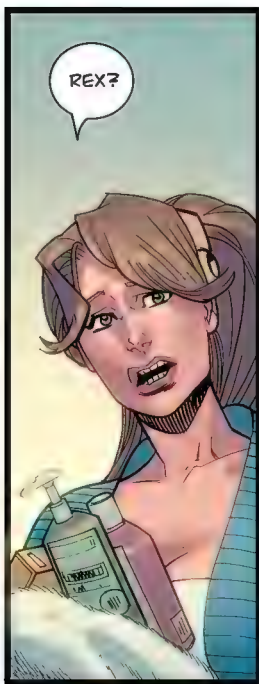
I
WANT--!!







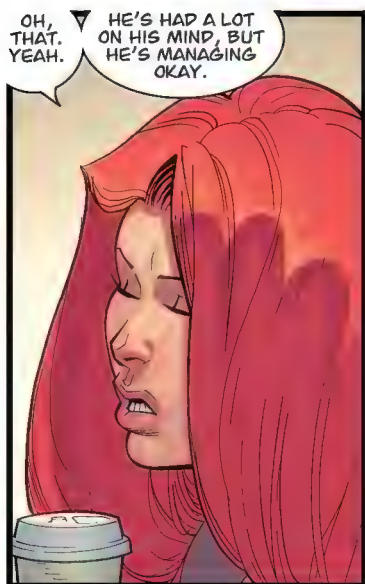
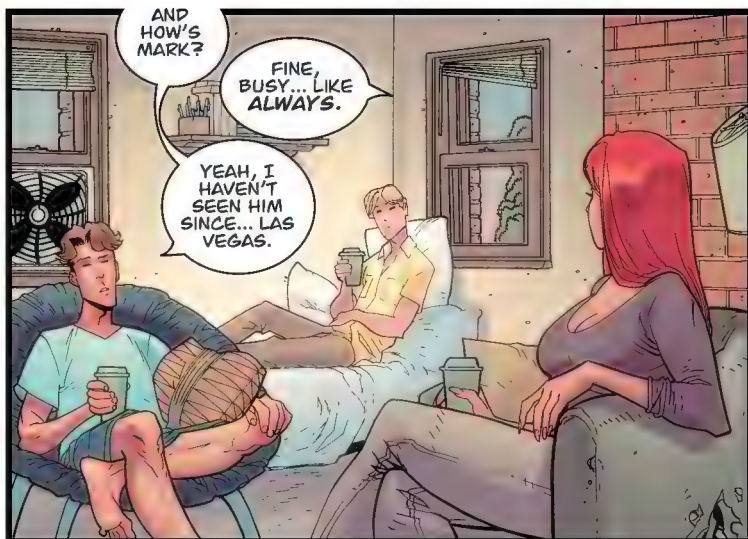






CHAPTER SIX







WHY DID YOU CALL ME HERE?

I KNOW THIS HAS BEEN GRATING ON YOU, THE DESTRUCTION OF LAS VEGAS... SO I THOUGHT IT WOULD HELP FOR YOU TO SEE THAT **SOME** GOOD HAS COME FROM THIS.

ARE THOSE... **SOLAR PANELS?**

YES. THERE AREN'T ENOUGH RESOURCES TO REBUILD-- WE'RE INCAPABLE OF STARTING THIS CITY OVER FROM SCRATCH.

ALSO, SOME PEOPLE IN THE GOVERNMENT FEEL IT WOULD BE DISRESPECTFUL.

SO YOU'RE GOING TO FOLLOW THAT MANIAC'S PLAN AND COVER THE AREA WITH SOLAR PANELS?

YEAH, IT'S AMAZING! YOU CAN THANK THIS GUY HERE FOR MAKING IT ALL WORK.

OH, I BARELY DID ANYTHING.

ARE YOU KIDDING? THIS GUY HERE BASICALLY INVENTED A DOUBLE-SIDED SOLAR PANEL THAT CAN UTILIZE THE MIRRORED SURFACE OF THE TERRAIN HERE.

HIS SOLAR PANELS ABSORB NEARLY **TWICE** AS MUCH SOLAR ENERGY AS STANDARD PANELS.

WHAT A GREAT FIND CHRIS HAS TURNED OUT TO BE. GOOD JOB THERE, INVINCIBLE.

WITH THE WORK HE AND SINCLAIR ARE DOING, THIS SOLAR PANEL ARRAY WILL PROVIDE CHEAP, CLEAN ENERGY FOR NEARLY **HALF** OF THE CITIZENS IN THIS COUNTRY.

AND ITS CONSTRUCTION IS A PUBLIC WORKS PROJECT THAT IS EMPLOYING **THOUSANDS**.

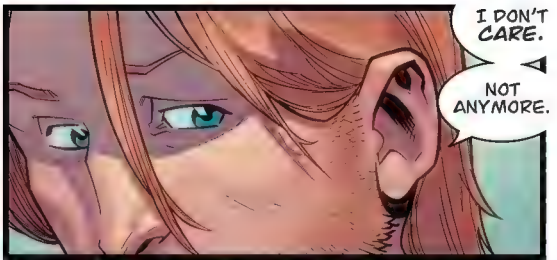
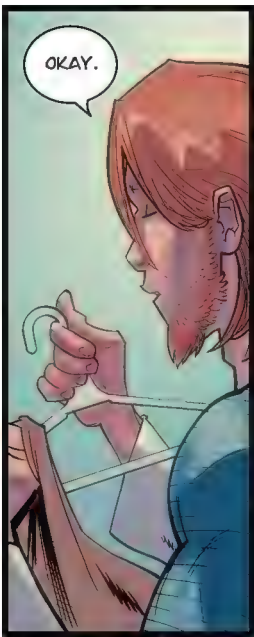
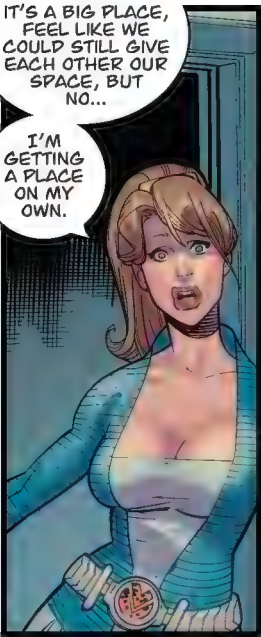
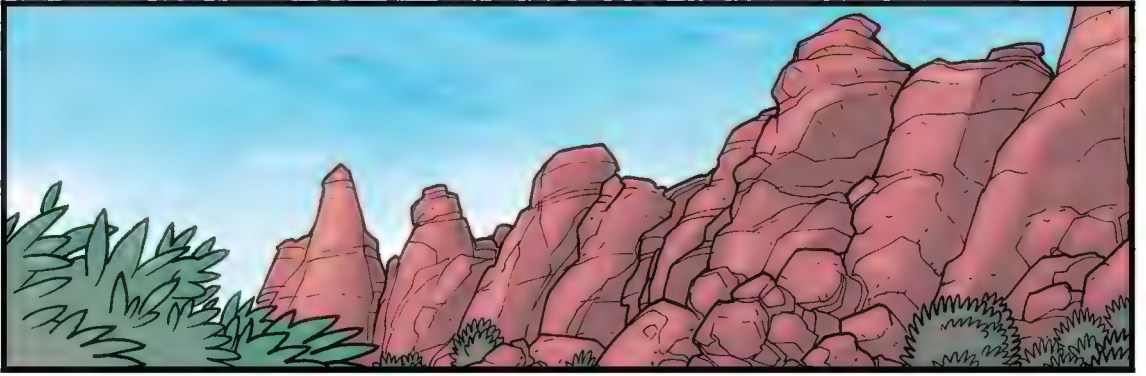
WHOA...

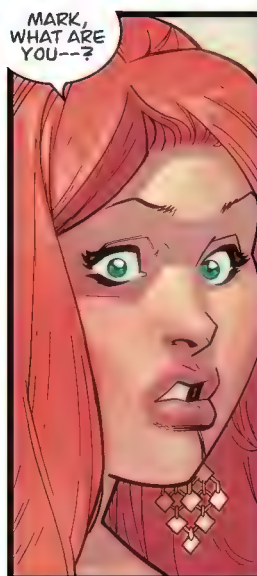
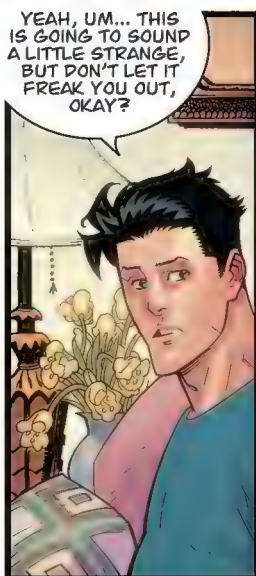
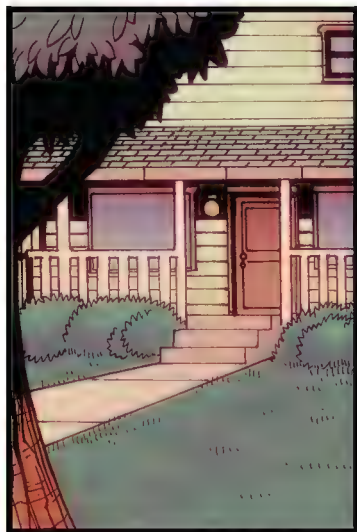
...DINOSAURUS
WAS RIGHT.

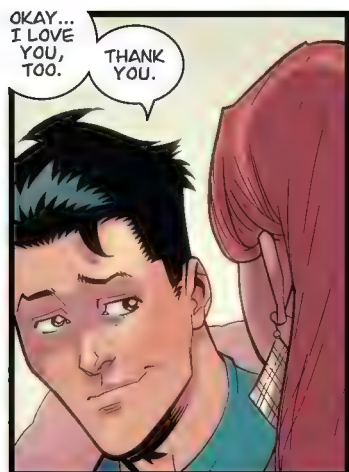
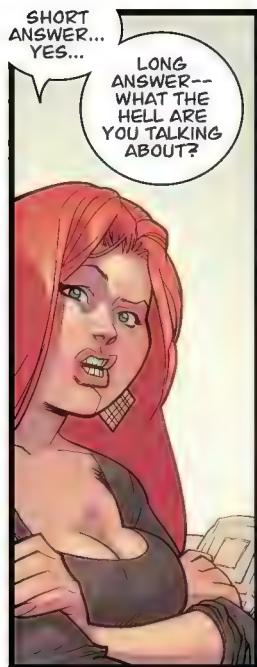
WHAT
WAS
THAT?

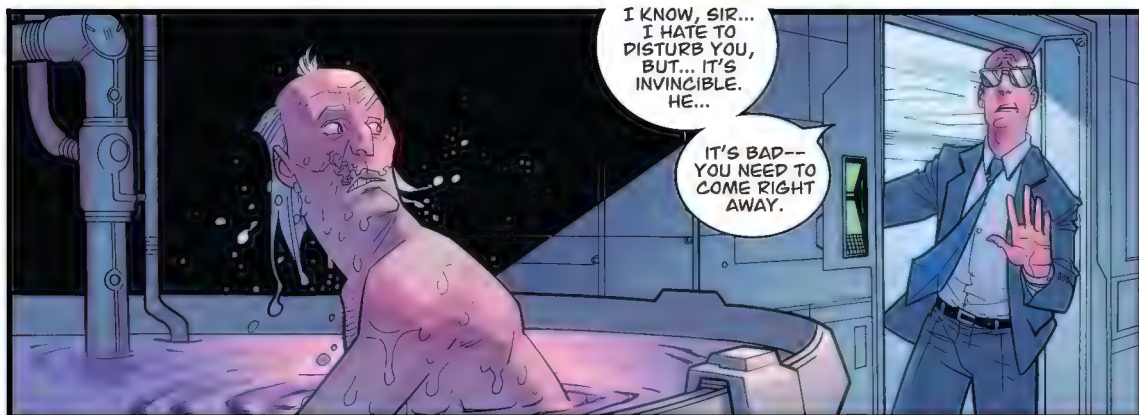
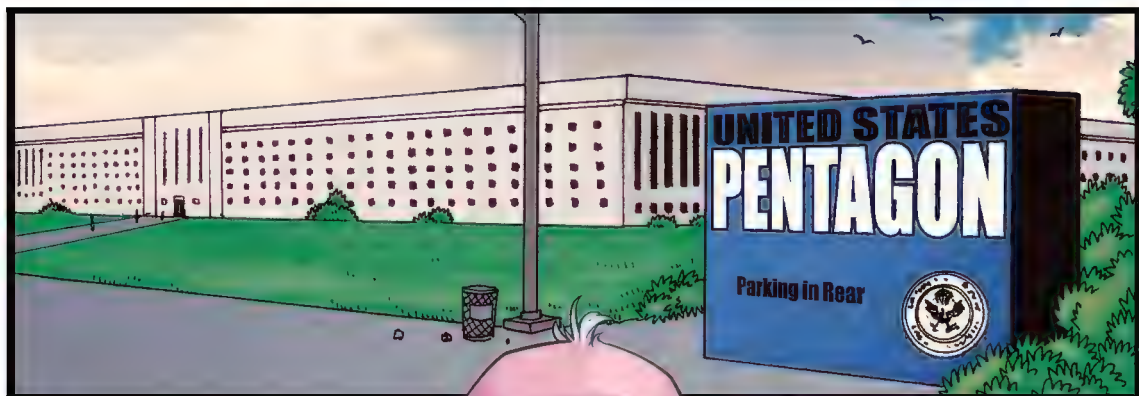
NOTHING...





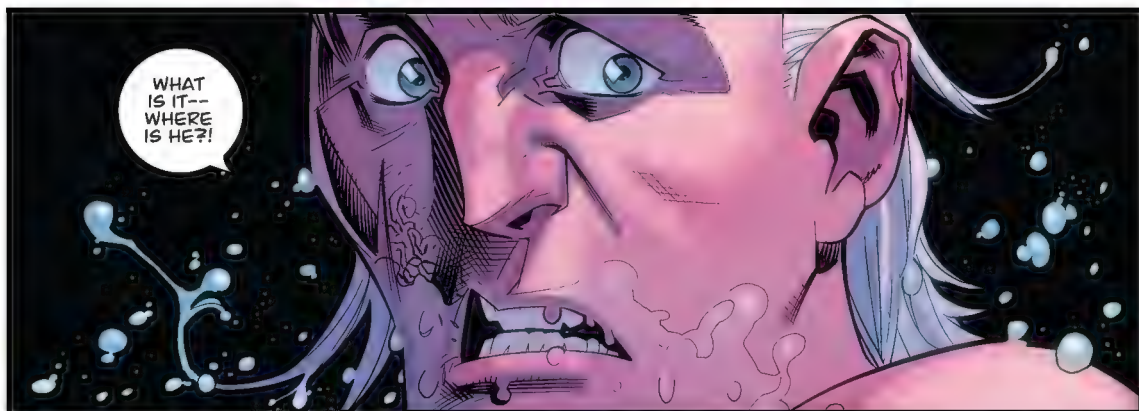






I KNOW, SIR...
I HATE TO
DISTURB YOU,
BUT... IT'S
INVINCIBLE.
HE...

IT'S BAD--
YOU NEED TO
COME RIGHT
AWAY.



WHAT
IS IT--
WHERE
IS HE?!

UM...
ARE YOU,
LIKE--
HERE
TO KILL
ME?

NO, I'M...
HERE
TO **SAVE**
YOU.

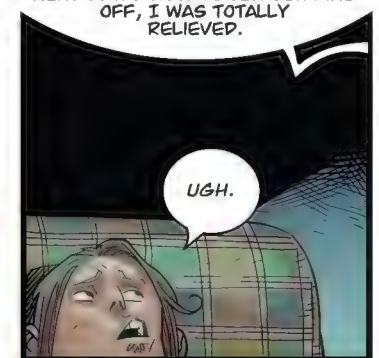
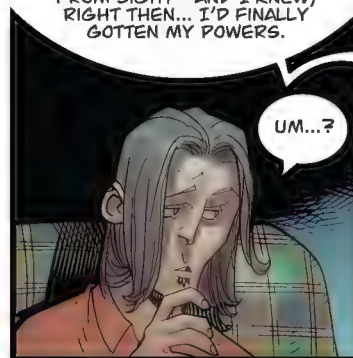


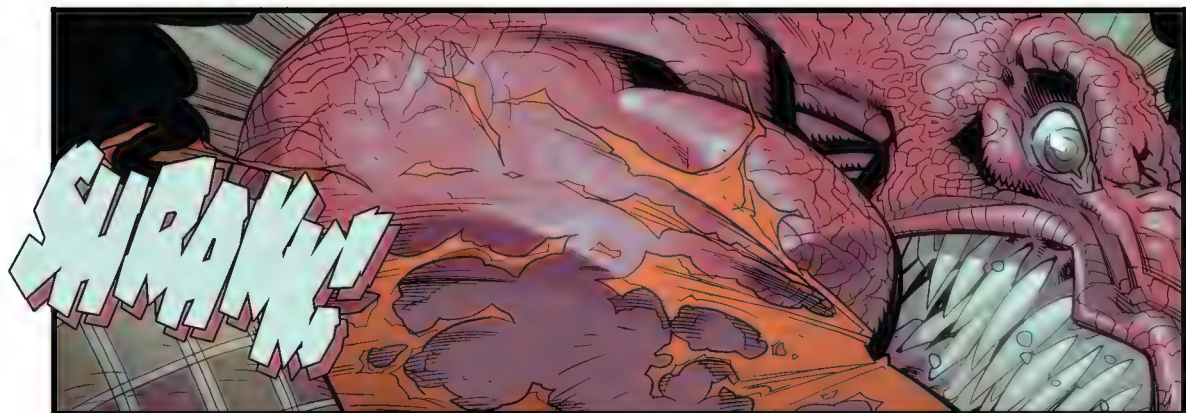


WHEN I WAS LIKE... EIGHT YEARS OLD, MY DAD SAT ME DOWN... FOR Y'KNOW, THE TALK. THE TALK WHERE HE EXPLAINS THAT HE'S A SUPERHERO AND THAT SOME DAY YOU'RE GOING TO INHERIT HIS POWERS. SO, FROM THAT POINT ON, I WAS JUST SORT OF COUNTING THE DAYS UNTIL MY POWERS KICKED IN... I WAS EXCITED AT FIRST, BUT AFTER A WHILE, I JUST STOPPED THINKING ABOUT IT. I KIND OF GAVE UP.

BY THE TIME I WAS SEVENTEEN I HAD A PART TIME JOB AT BURGER MART, WHICH WAS JUST AS BAD AS YOU'D IMAGINE. I'D LONG SINCE GIVEN UP ON GETTING POWERS. BUT ONE DAY, AFTER WORK, I WAS TAKING THE TRASH OUT--DRAGGING TWO BIG BAGS. LIKE EVERY DAY I'D DONE IT BEFORE, I USED ALL MY MIGHT--IN THE HOPES THAT THE BAG WOULD MAKE IT UP INTO THE PUMPSTER. AFTER I THREW IT, IT SOARED HIGH INTO THE AIR, DISAPPEARING FROM SIGHT--AND I KNEW, RIGHT THEN... I'D FINALLY GOTTEN MY POWERS.

LATER THAT NIGHT, I WAS ON MY ROOF. YOU SEE, ASIDE FROM THE SUPER-STRENGTH THAT ALLOWED ME TO SLING THAT TRASH BAG TO SPACE MY FATHER ALSO POSSESSED THE ABILITY TO FLY. SO I THOUGHT, JUMPING OFF THE ROOF WOULD REALLY BE A GOOD WAY TO FORCE MYSELF TO NATURALLY LEARN THAT ABILITY. I WAS ONLY ONE STORY UP, SO THE FALL WOULDN'T HURT ME TOO BAD. I WAS PLAYING IT SAFE, STILL--WHEN I NOTICED I WAS ACTUALLY HOVERING NEXT TO MY ROOF AFTER JUMPING OFF, I WAS TOTALLY RELIEVED.





THEY ACTUALLY
HAD ME CONTAINED,
THERE WAS LITTLE
HOPE OF ME
ESCAPING MY
FRAIL, PATHETIC,
ALTERED
FORM.

YOU'RE SMART
ENOUGH TO KNOW
THAT. YOU'RE
SMART ENOUGH TO NOT
TO DO THIS SIMPLY
TO PICK A FIGHT
WITH ME...

...SO AS
UNBELIEVABLE
AS IT MAY SOUND,
THE MOST LOGICAL
EXPLANATION IS
THAT YOU'VE COME
AROUND TO MY WAY
OF THINKING AND
ARE HERE TO
HELP ME...

BUT
THAT'S
INSANE...
RIGHT?

WELL...



I HAVE TO ADMIT,
YOUR METHODS
ARE INEXCUSABLE...
TO THE POINT THAT
IT'S... **HARD** TO
JUST STAND
HERE AND TALK
TO YOU.

YOU'VE
KILLED SO
MANY PEOPLE,
DESTROYED
HOMES... AN
ENTIRE
CITY...



ALL WORTHY
SACRIFICES
FOR THE
GREATER
GOOD.

AS I RECALL,
WHEN YOUR FATHER
ATTEMPTED TO TAKE
OVER THIS PLANET,
YOU FOUGHT HIM--
AND IN THE PROCESS
SOME LIVES
WERE LOST.

WHAT I
DID WAS NO
DIFFERENT.



IT WASN'T
REMOVELY--
NO, THIS ISN'T
THE TIME FOR
THIS. WHAT I'M
GETTING AT--
WHAT I'M
HERE FOR...

I'VE BEEN
DOING THIS, BEING
INVINCIBLE FOR A
WHILE NOW, AND I
HAVE THESE POWERS
AND I DO WHAT I
DO... TO USE
THEM TO **HELP**
PEOPLE.

I LOOK BACK
AFTER ALL THIS
TIME AND I THINK...
WELL, I DON'T KNOW
THAT I AM, Y'KNOW...
HELPING PEOPLE--
MAKING THE WORLD
BETTER... AND I
FEEL LIKE THAT'S
WHAT I SHOULD
BE DOING.

I'M
MAINTAINING
THE STATUS
QUO AT BEST,
PUTTING OUT
FIRES...



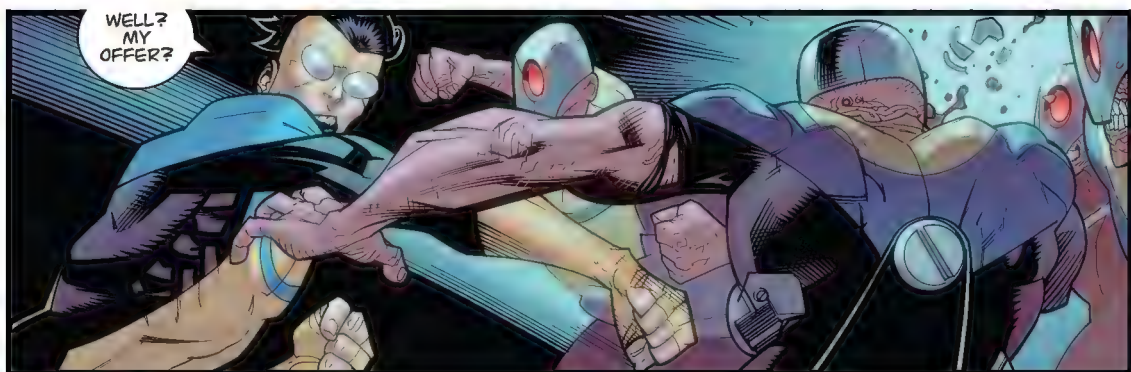
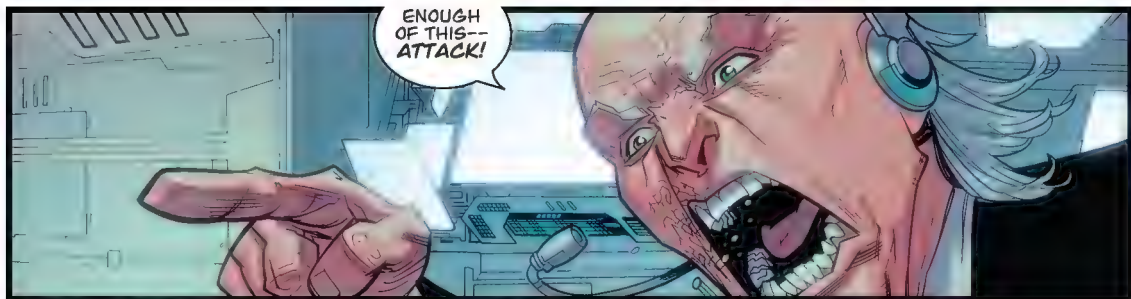
MY SOLAR PANEL ARRAY
IS BEING BUILT, ISN'T IT?
CHEAP ENERGY FOR THE
MASSES... A BETTER
LIFE FOR SOME.
SMALL... BUT A
DIFFERENCE.

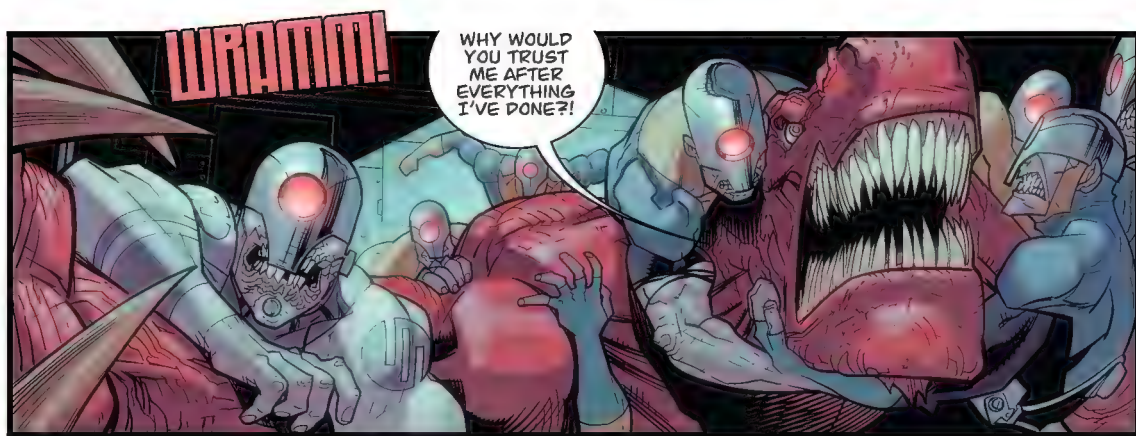
MUCH
BETTER
THAN SAVING
A BRIDGE OR
PUNCHING A
BANK ROBBER,
RIGHT?



YES, BUT YOUR METHODS...
I THINK, IF WE WERE TO
WORK TOGETHER, WE COULD
DO THINGS THAT ACTUALLY
MATTERED. WE COULD
SAVE THE WORLD--
WITHOUT KILLING
ANYONE.

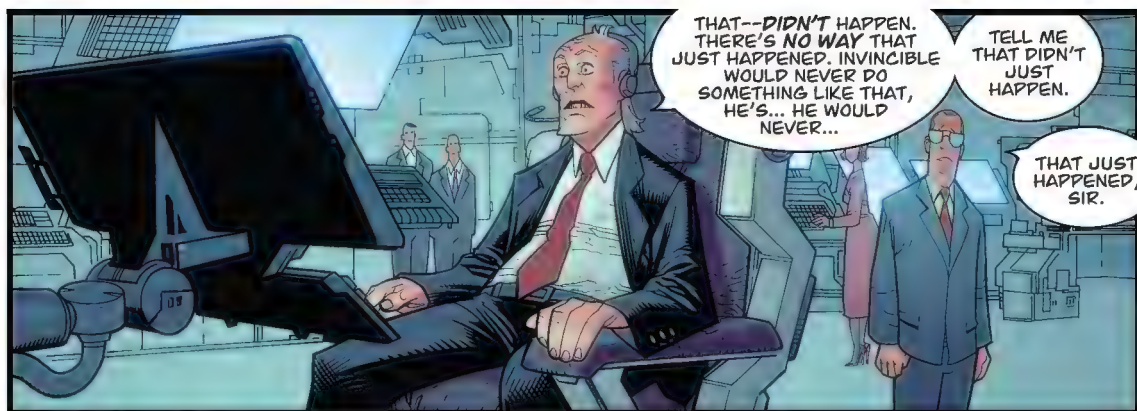
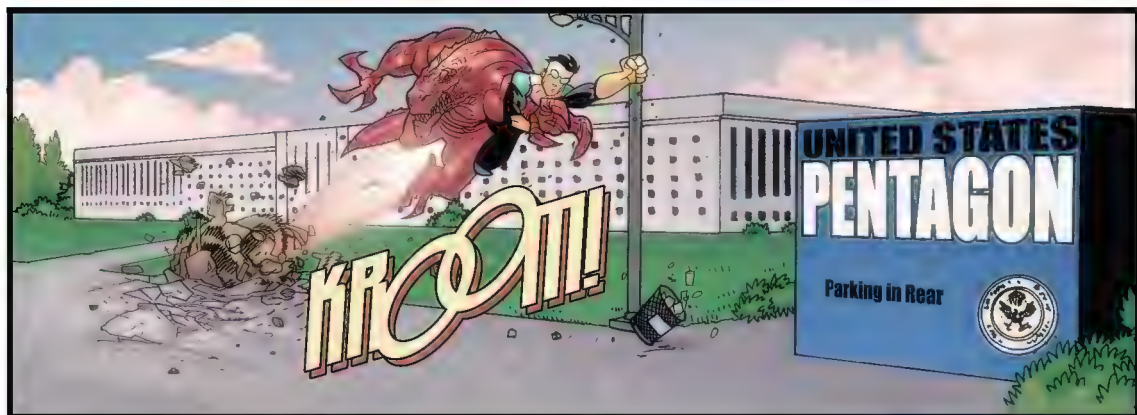
IF YOU'D BE
WILLING TO LET
ME HELP YOU-- SO
THAT NO ONE HAD TO
DIE... I'LL HELP YOU
ESCAPE, AND I'LL
HELP YOU MAKE A
DIFFERENCE.

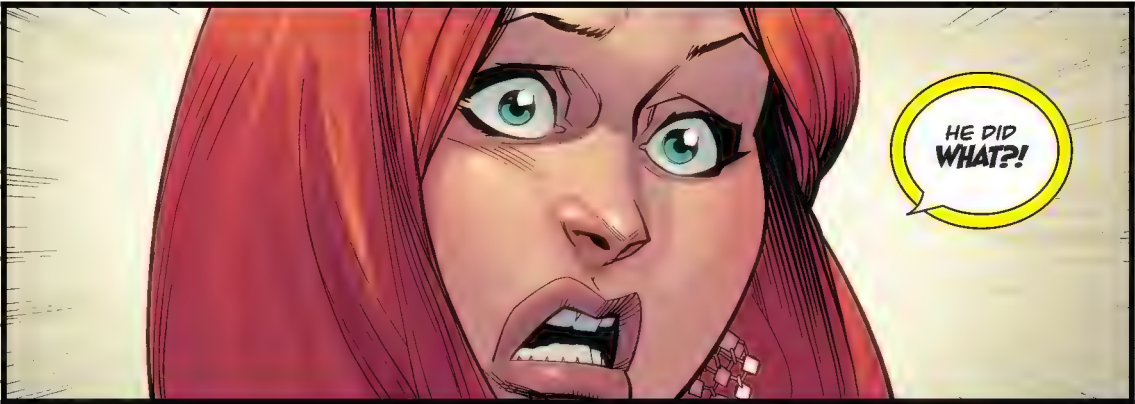
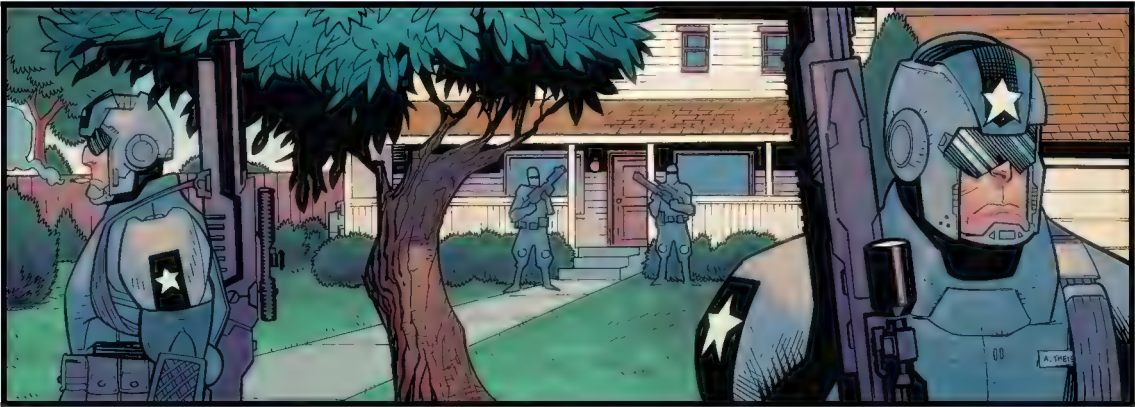
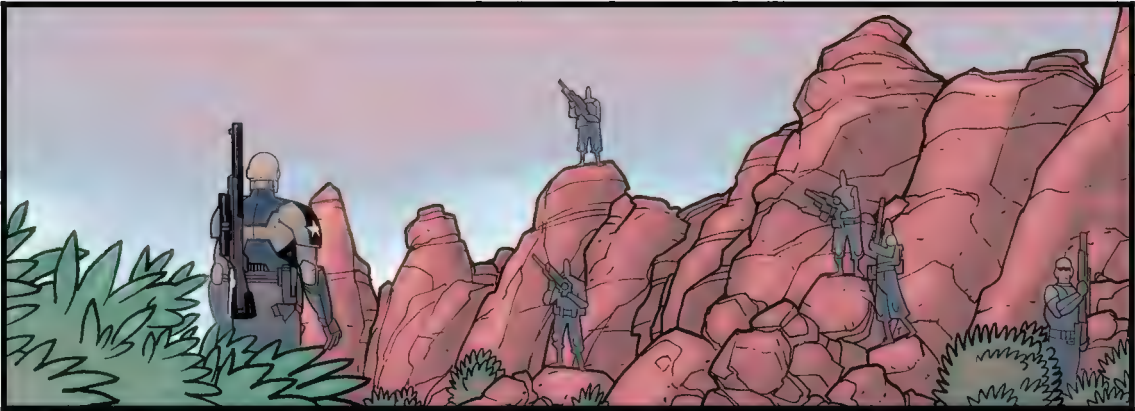


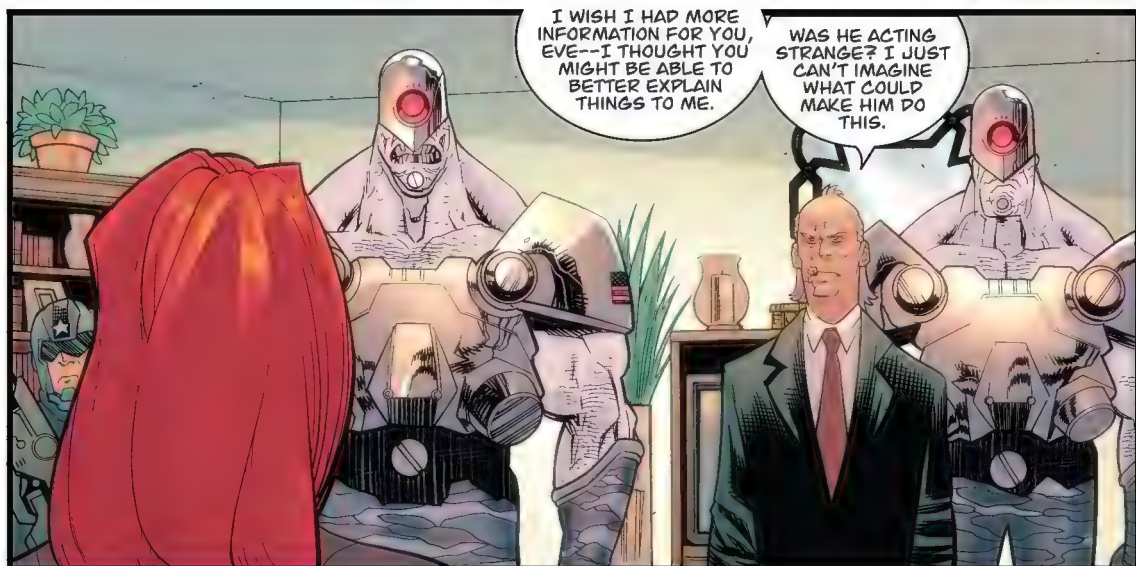


THIS
WAY.









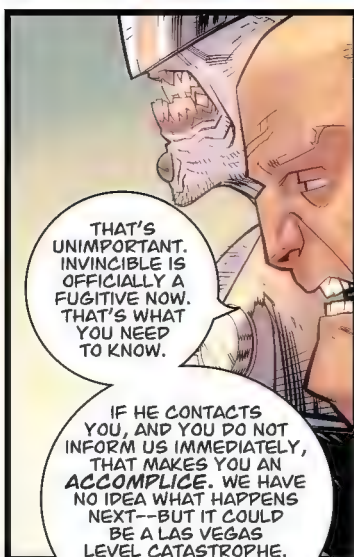
I WISH I HAD MORE INFORMATION FOR YOU, EVE-- I THOUGHT YOU MIGHT BE ABLE TO BETTER EXPLAIN THINGS TO ME.

WAS HE ACTING STRANGE? I JUST CAN'T IMAGINE WHAT COULD MAKE HIM DO THIS.



NO, NOT AT ALL-- HE... TOLD ME HE MIGHT BE DOING SOMETHING CRAZY, BUT ALSO THAT HE **KNEW** IT WAS THE RIGHT THING TO DO...

I THINK I GAVE HIM **PERMISSION** TO DO THIS... THAT'S WHY HE WAS TELLING ME.



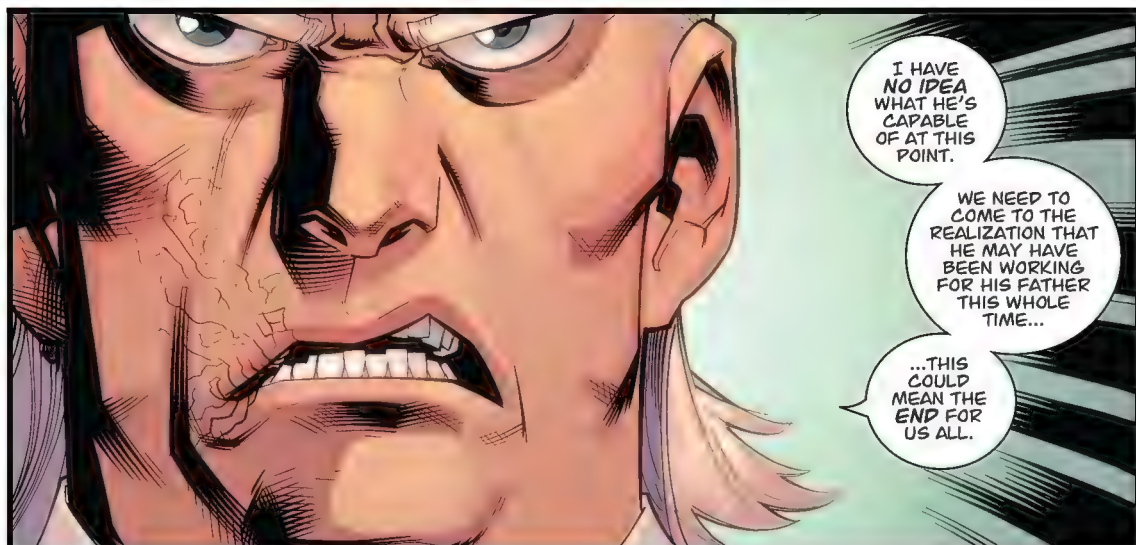
THAT'S UNIMPORTANT. INVINCIBLE IS OFFICIALLY A FUGITIVE NOW. THAT'S WHAT YOU NEED TO KNOW.

IF HE CONTACTS YOU, AND YOU DO NOT INFORM US IMMEDIATELY, THAT MAKES YOU AN **ACCOMPLICE**. WE HAVE NO IDEA WHAT HAPPENS NEXT--BUT IT COULD BE A LAS VEGAS LEVEL CATASTROPHE.



YOU CAN'T BE SERIOUS. MARK WOULD NEVER ALLOW SOMETHING LIKE THAT TO HAPPEN.

YOU DON'T REALLY THINK HE'S CAPABLE OF THAT, DO YOU?

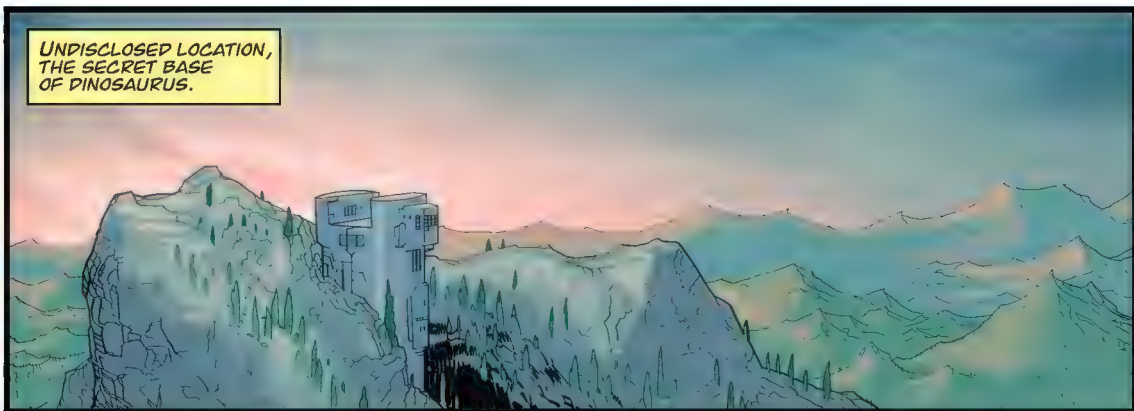


I HAVE **NO IDEA** WHAT HE'S CAPABLE OF AT THIS POINT.

WE NEED TO COME TO THE REALIZATION THAT HE MAY HAVE BEEN WORKING FOR HIS FATHER THIS WHOLE TIME...

...THIS COULD MEAN THE END FOR US ALL.

UNDISCLOSED LOCATION,
THE SECRET BASE
OF DINOSAURUS.



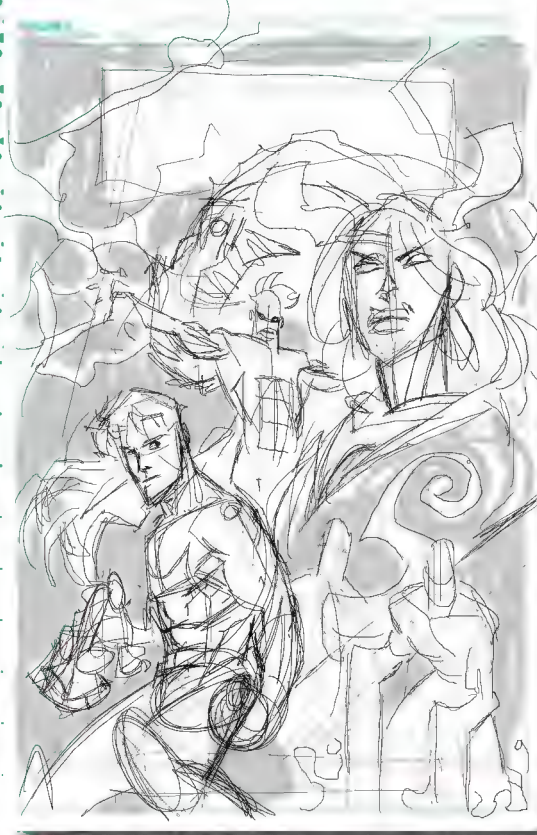
READY
TO GET
STARTED?

YEAH.

LET'S
SAVE THE
WORLD.



SKETCHBOOK



ROBERT KIRKMAN: I can't believe after fifteen volumes Ryan is still able to take our trade paperback cover motif and make it look cool and fresh and new. Great job all around. This was a fun batch of issues to do, setting up some reoccurring villains in the series while taking Mark down a possibly strange path. Love this cover!



RYAN OTTLEY: Hey there! Welcome! So here we are fifteen trade paperbacks in and I'm still loving this book. This first drawing you see here is a digital layout done on a Cintiq. I do a lot of digital layouts these days, you'll soon see why. This first one is a collage type layout, Robert likes the covers for these to be similar in ways, these TPBs all have some kind of panel arrangement, so Robert asked if I could incorporate those in somehow. That's what is amazing about doing layouts digitally, instead of re-drawing the whole thing I just moved things around, added some panels, and enlarged some figures. I then change the lines to a very light blue and print it off. I use that as a guide to do my finished pencils and inks the traditional way.

I didn't scan the pencils. I'm dumb. But here are the inks on the next page. Would've liked Dinosaurus to look a little cooler here. Ah well, live and learn.



GRAVITATOR



KIRKMAN: Ah, Gravitator... I love this guy. It was important to me, because this guy's story was somewhat goofy to begin with, that he not appear silly at all. Ryan is a pretty awesome character designer (this is boring, I just keep complimenting him, sorry). I dig the gun a lot. I just pretty much described the guns that Grifter used to use in the WildC.A.T.S. cartoon... and Ryan came up with something way cooler!

OTTLEY: Good ol' gravity tator. Always fun playing around with designs.



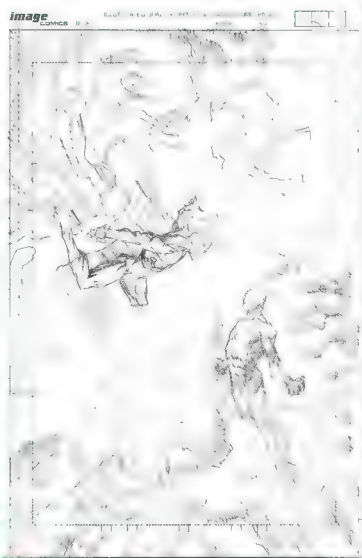
KIRKMAN: Monster Girl's new look. I wanted to reflect her time in the Flaxan dimension, that's why both her and Robot wear their sweet alien clothes all the time now--but also make her a bit sexy now that she's grown up, and look cool. Ryan does a great job again.

OTTLEY: Another design, glad she's back in the book. Monster Girl is the best. I drew a shot there with pants on her just in case Robert didn't like the skirt. He liked the skirt.

KIRKMAN: Here's a cool couple of covers. I especially love the cover for 79. It's a couple of couples watching a couple kids play. You don't see a lot of that on the covers of super-hero comics. And Ryan made it look great! And there's a Science Dog toy!

OTTLEY: I penciled this cover pretty tight because I was thinking about asking an inker to do their thing on it. I ran out of time so I just ended up inking it myself. I remember Robert asked me to draw Dinosaurus in a wrecked Las Vegas casino or something. Yeah, I kinda skimped on the background. I remember Robert said, "I asked for a destroyed Vegas and you give me a burning log cabin?!" Whoops. I have failed you Robert.

The cover to 81 was especially frustrating. I wanted to play around with different inking techniques here. I'm glad I saved my layout scan because my first go at inking this was terribly ruined. I had to print out a new layout and start all over. I'm really happy with how it turned out. The dry brush clouds is something I'd like to do again. Fun stuff, folks!





KIRKMAN: Here's some more cool covers. Ryan, tell the boys and girls some inside info on these fine gems!

OTTLEY: What the, didn't I do thumbnail sketches of these covers Robert?! I know I did! BAH! I've failed again. They're probably in a drawer under a stack of papers somewhere. Sigh. Don't fire me.

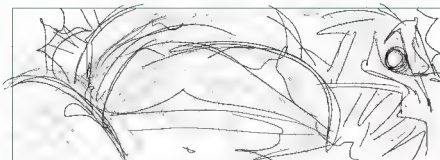
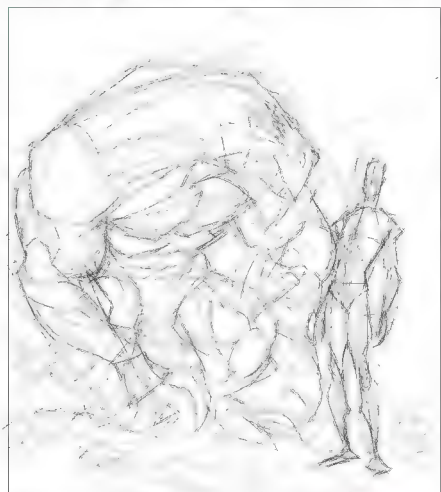
Oh and 84, easiest cover ever!



KIRKMAN: Some interior pages. Ryan--what's the story here?

OTTLEY: I really enjoy drawing faces like Tether Tyrant's. I always pictured him like an ex boxer, cauliflower ears, Kind of swollen around eyes and upper cheeks. Tough as nails. And his goofy rough face with stubble. Always a blast to draw. Sadly no one has ever asked for a Tether Tyrant sketch at a convention. Ah well, the bubble gum strands were a bit lame though. I like the new look for sure!

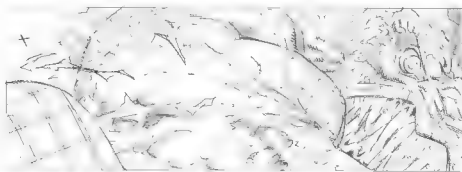




KIRKMAN: Another great page from Ryan Ottley. Two questions: 1. Does it get old being so awesome all the time. And 2. How cool is Dinosaurus? I mean really?

OTTLEY: 1. No. 2. Way.

Here is more of the digital process. First one is a quick layout, second I tighten things up a little, defining shapes. Just enough info to give myself so I when I print this off I can just start penciling. Then I send it off to Cliff for inks! Woo comics!



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